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THE MILITANT

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Blacks, unions hit racist killings

Buffalo rally against savage murder wave

By Osborne Hart

BUFFALO, N.Y.—A broadly sponsored rally condemning the racist murders of six Black men and the attempt on the life of a seventh was slated here October 19 in front of city hall.

Four Black males were shot to death during a two-day period in September by the so-called ".22-caliber killer."

Two weeks later, in a forty-eight-hour period, two Black cab drivers were murdered. In a particularly ghoulish manner, their bodies were mutilated, with their hearts extracted.

A day later, a white man tried to strangle a Black patient at the Erie County Medical Center with a cord.

The victim, Collin Cole, said he heard the man enter the room and exclaim, "I hate niggers!"

Cole then felt himself being choked and lost consciousness. He was saved when a nurse

entered the room and the assailant fled. Cole remains in critical condition.

There has not been a single arrest in these seven cases. The Black community is in a state of shock and outrage.

The call for the Buffalo Unity Day rally is a response to the deep-going concern within the Black community, which comprises a third of the city's 355,000 population.

The city hall action was called by the local branch of the NAACP and the civil rights organization, BUILD.

In addition, representatives of the city's labor movement endorsed the demonstration. These include the western New York area of United Auto Workers Region 9, Communications Workers of America Local 1121, Amalgamated Clothing Workers, and American Federation of Teachers Local 2190.

In a telephone interview, Joseph Newton,

UAW Region 9 area Community Action Program director, told the *Militant*, "Everybody has to stick together. This kind of thing can't be let go."

City officials declared a twenty-one day mourning period and are urging everyone to wear black ribbons.

Newton, whose area includes twenty-five union locals of 40,000 auto workers, said his members would wear the ribbons.

The Auto Workers also contributed \$5,000—the largest single amount—to a reward fund that now stands at \$25,000.

Among the scores of other Buffalo Unity Day endorsers are Operation PUSH, the Urban League, the mayor of Buffalo, and members of the city council.

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Socialist candidates demand federal gov't act on terror

The following statement was issued October 16 by Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann, the Socialist Workers Party candidates for president and vice-president.

The brutal racist murders of Blacks in Buffalo are a matter of gravest concern for working people everywhere.

We join with the Black community of Buffalo and others who have demanded that the federal government act promptly and vigorously to protect the civil rights and very lives of Buffalo residents.

Similar killings have occurred in Atlanta, Salt Lake City, New York, and other cities recently.

In the face of these developments, it is an outrage that the federal government has not even spoken out, much less acted to arrest the murderers.

And neither Democratic candidate Carter nor Republican Reagan has uttered a word on the violence.

The failure of federal and local officials to apprehend the killers is not new. In Greensboro, North Carolina, last year, the Ku Klux Klan and Nazis gunned down five anti-racist demonstrators. Only a handful of the killers were brought to trial. And then at the trial, it was revealed that a federal agent participated in planning the assault, while a local cop informer was actually in the lead car of the murderous caravan.

An important step forward against racist terror is being taken in Buffalo. Major unions, including the United Auto Workers, have endorsed a protest rally initiated by civil rights groups against the racist violence. United action by labor, Black organizations, and all fighters against right-wing terror is what is needed to bring the killings to a stop.



ATLANTA: Mother clutches child who survived day-care center explosion where five died. In past fifteen months, fourteen Black children disappeared in city. Six were found murdered. Blacks are demanding halt to violence. See page 4.

Cuba pardons U.S. prisoners

Once again, Cuba has shown it is the U.S. government that is responsible for the breakdown of diplomatic relations and high degree of tension between Havana and Washington.

On October 13, Cuba announced its decision to release all U.S. citizens now serving prison sentences in Cuba.

This was reported in Washington by Ramón Sánchez-Parodi, who is Cuba's diplomatic envoy in Washington.

Sánchez-Parodi said the pardons were an expression of "the traditional attitude of friendship" between the Cuban and American people.

He indicated that some of those now being held in Cuba are wanted by U.S. authorities and may not wish to return. They will not be compelled to do so.

The pardons are consistent with Cuban policy.

From the outset, Cuba has maintained an open door for those of its citizens who wished to leave.

In 1979, Cuba released some 3,500 prisoners convicted of counterrevolutionary activity.

At the same time it opened its doors to Cubans abroad who wanted to visit their homeland, without regard for the political views of the visitors.

Despite Washington's trampling on a joint anti-hijacking agreement, Cuba has respected its terms.

Contrast that record with Washington's.

Since 1960 the United States government has maintained an economic blockade designed to starve Cuba out.

In 1961 it organized a mercenary invasion of Cuba. Since then it has promoted a campaign of sabotage and terror within Cuba and abroad.

CIA-sponsored Cuban counterrevolutionaries have been permitted to carry on their murderous work in this country with impunity.

The most shocking example of this was the September 11 assassination in New York of Félix García Rodríguez, a Cuban UN diplomatic attaché. A month after that murder by a well-known gang of Cuban exile killers, authorities assert they don't have a clue.

Clearly, the source of the poisoned relations is in Washington, not Havana. Those who see the value of a policy of friendship with Cuba should demand an end to the blockade against Cuba and a withdrawal of U.S. forces from its illegally held Guantánamo military base in Cuba.

And we must insist that those responsible for the murder of Félix García be apprehended without further stalling.

McHenry's message

Despite opposition around the world and increasing hesitation among U.S. allies, the Carter administration got its way again October 13 at the United Nations.

The ousted dictatorship of Pol Pot—responsible for the death of millions—was designated as sole "legitimate" representative of Kampuchea (Cambodia).

Donald McHenry, U.S. ambassador to the UN, explained that he supported Pol Pot in order to protest the Vietnamese "invasion and occupation."

The Kampuchean people have a different view. They regarded it as liberation when Vietnamese troops helped them toss out Pol Pot nearly two years ago. Today he controls virtually no territory and has no popular support, despite massive infusions of aid from Washington's allies.

Washington's vote for Pol Pot may be among the most revealing that U.S. representatives ever cast at the UN. It sends a message that will be heard loud and clear by the peoples of Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

Washington's emissaries like to claim that they are trying to spread the virtues of "Western democracy" to the peoples of the "third world."

But the people of the world, including the American working people, are increasingly seeing through that fakery. McHenry's boost for Pol Pot can only help.

Working people remember Washington's "democratic alternative" to the Iranian revolution. The shah's reign of torture and murder.

We remember the "democratic alternative" to the Nicaraguan revolution. The butcher Somoza.

We see the "democratic alternative" to revolution that Washington proposes for El Salvador. A bloody junta that slaughters thousands.

And now we have Washington's "democratic alternative" to the Vietnamese forces that are

helping the surviving Kampuchean rebuild their country.

None other than Pol Pot.

It's no wonder that millions around the world risk their lives to revolt against these "alternatives."

And that's why millions of Americans oppose Carter's draft registration. They don't want to be dragged into Washington's crusade to make the world safe for the shahs, Somozas, and Pol Pots.

Oct. 25 to Nov. 4: big sales opportunity

The ten days before the elections, from October 25 to November 4, will be among the most important for the Socialist Workers Party campaign of Andrew Pulley for president and Matilde Zimmermann for vice-president.

SWP supporters will fan out to take the ideas of the campaign to working people through the socialist press, the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. These ten days of intensified political thinking and discussion offer a special opportunity to win subscribers as part of our circulation drive for 8,000 new readers. (See page 9.)

Millions of working people will be making up their minds about what to do on election day.

They will be thinking about the threat of Reagan, with his platform calling for escalated attacks on Blacks and women and his unbroken antilabor record. They will be concerned about his warhawk speeches for a further arms build-up.

And they will be weighing Carter's four years of attacks against the most basic interests of working people—culminating in draft registration and war threats in the Persian Gulf.

They will be thinking about how to end unemployment and stop the ravages of inflation.

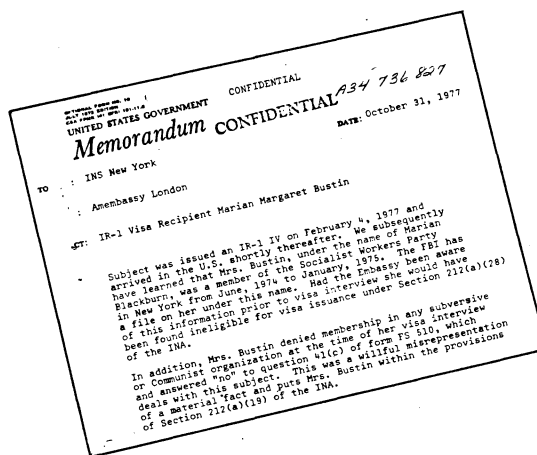
They will be angry about outbreaks of racist murders in Buffalo and Atlanta.

Many will want to talk about these problems and discuss the socialist alternative. A growing number will want to read what the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* have to say.

All out to win new subscribers between October 25 and November 4!

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Plot to deport socialist exposed

The government is attempting to deport a socialist coal miner. Files turned over in the Socialist Workers Party suit against the government expose plot by Immigration and Naturalization Services and FBI. **Page 6.**

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Socialist hits new U.S. war moves in Gulf

By Andy Rose

HOUSTON—Youth and working people in this country should strongly protest the U.S. military build-up in the Middle East, Matilde Zimmermann told a campaign rally here October 12.

The Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate ridiculed a recent State Department announcement that although Washington was "not taking sides" in the Iraq-Iran war, it is dropping use of the term "neutrality" to describe its stance.

This apparently illogical statement reflects a real dilemma facing the U.S. government, Zimmermann said. "It is trying to pass itself off as interested only in peace, in preventing the spread of war, while in reality it is getting more and more involved. And step by step, escalation by escalation, it is trying to get the American people to accept the idea that we may have to go to war to protect 'our' oil supplies."

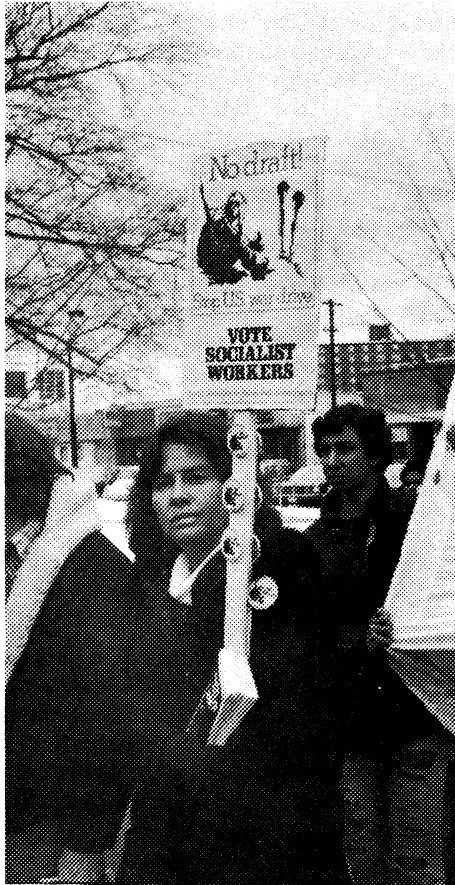
The truth is, Zimmermann said, that Washington has never been neutral. It has sent four super-sensitive spy planes and 500 U.S. troops to Saudi Arabia, whose rulers are openly supporting Iraq. It offered more military aid to other reactionary, pro-Iraq regimes in the region.

Washington has amassed one of the largest naval forces in the world, with more than thirty war ships, in the Arabian sea. And the day before the socialist campaign rally here, Washington announced it had sent a guided-missile cruiser through the Straits of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf itself to "cooperate" with U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia.

Bipartisan Policy

These ominous steps toward direct U.S. military involvement are supported by Democrats and Republicans alike, Zimmermann said.

Ronald Reagan has stated that the real problem is that the United States didn't stand by the shah. "This is a frightening statement," Zimmermann said, "when you realize that Washington did everything it could to keep the shah in power—everything short of



Matilde Zimmermann, socialist vice-presidential candidate, at antidraft protest

sending U.S. troops to war against the Iranian people."

What about the Carter administration? Speaking in El Paso, Texas, October 9, Defense Secretary Harold Brown declared, "Our forces are ready to go to war." He said Washington would respond "to any attack on our vital interests whether those attacks are direct or aimed at us through actions directed at our allies and friends."

This is an open threat to attack Iran, Zimmermann explained, if it dares to retaliate against the U.S.-backed regimes—Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Oman, Kuwait, and others—that are aiding the Iraqi invasion.

A few days before, she noted, the

commander of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Force, Lt. Gen. P.X. Kelley, had been even more blunt. "I would feel comfortable going to war tomorrow," he said in Washington. "I am getting down to the nitty-gritty of who goes on what airplane and where he goes."

The problem for the U.S. rulers, Zimmermann continued, is that "many of those being put on the airplanes are not so comfortable going to war for the interests of Exxon and Texaco—not to mention the hundreds of thousands who would have to be drafted to back them up in the event of a major U.S. war."

This is why Washington is making such an effort to portray itself as a force for peace in the Middle East, she said.

'Fanatics'?

Part of this propaganda offensive, Zimmermann explained, is the theme that the peoples of the Middle East—especially the Iranians—are "crazy" and "irrational." We are told the reason the Iranians are resisting the invasion so strongly—which Washington had predicted they would be incapable of doing—is because they are "religious fanatics."

"This is the same line they always use when the oppressed stand up and fight," Zimmermann said.

"They called Malcolm X a hate-filled fanatic. They say the youth in Miami were crazy hoodlums for protesting when the cops who killed a Black man were let off. They say the transit workers in Dallas are irrational because they refuse to put up any longer with inhuman conditions.

"The real reason the Iranians are fighting so hard is not because they are religious zealots, but because they have something to fight for," Zimmermann declared. "They have something very down-to-earth to defend."

She pointed to the gains the Iranian workers and peasants have made through their revolution: abolition of the monarchy; the holding of elections; the beginning of distribution of land to

poor peasants and improvement of services in rural areas; the right of workers to organize factory committees; and doubling of wages for many.

"They have won the right to demonstrate and play an active role in the political life of their country and they have exercised that right in their millions over the past two years. They set an example for the whole world by breaking all ties with the racist states of Israel and South Africa, for which the shah had been a chief oil supplier."

These gains are the real target of U.S. military threats in the Persian Gulf, Zimmermann charged.

Withdraw U.S. forces!

"There is only one way the U.S. government can make any contribution to peace in the Middle East," she said. "That is to immediately withdraw every aircraft carrier, every warship, every bomber, every troop, every spy plane, and every missile!"

"The U.S. government could make a contribution to peace by stopping all attempts to overthrow the Iranian government and by meeting the very reasonable and just demands of the Iranian people for return of the shah's stolen wealth, for a pledge of non-interference, and for a public admission of Washington's role in the crimes of the shah. Instead of sending U.S. soldiers to war against Iran, the U.S. government would do a lot better to use its forces to speed massive amounts of aid to the Algerian people who have suffered so much death and devastation from the earthquake there.

"Finally, the U.S. government could make a contribution to peace by canceling draft registration and plans for the draft.

"But the U.S. government won't do any of these things unless it is forced to by the American people," Zimmermann said.

"And just as step by step it is trying to soften us up for war, so we have to step by step explain the truth, build the antidraft movement, and educate people on Washington's real role in the Middle East and around the world."

International support for Iran grows

By Janice Lynn

The façade of "Arab unity" behind the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein in its war against Iran has completely shattered.

The denunciation of the Iraqi invasion by the main newspaper of the government party in Syria was only the first breach.

Libyan leader Muammar el-Qaddafi sent a telegram on October 10 to Saudi Arabia's King Khalid and other Persian Gulf rulers urging support for Iran.

"It is the Islamic duty that we, the Arabs, should align ourselves with the Moslems in Iran . . . rather than fight them on behalf of the United States."

Qaddafi also urged that Khalid send back the four U.S. surveillance planes sent in recent weeks and denounced them as an "expansion of the U.S.

military presence" in the Arab world.

Arms and other supplies for Iran are reportedly being airlifted from Libya.

The Algerian government's press service has broadcast a message to all those countries siding with Iraq in the name of Arab solidarity. The statement reminded them that "the destruction of the shah's regime and its replacement with an authentically Iranian regime strengthened the anti-imperialist struggle in the world and especially widened the front for the liberation of Palestine. . . ."

Vietnam and North Korea are also said to be supplying Iran with small arms, spare parts, and other goods.

Meanwhile Washington has conducted a systematic disinformation campaign in the media, accusing Moscow of resupplying the Iraqi regime with weapons. This is intended to

divert attention from the Iraqi rulers' real sources of new arms, which include France, West Germany, and others.

The U.S. State Department has repeatedly admitted that there is no evidence of a major Soviet resupply of Iraq, and Soviet officials strongly deny the charges.

Much of the campaign focused on claims that two Soviet freighters bound for Iraq had docked in the Jordanian port of Aqaba. From there, it was daily proclaimed over press, radio, and television, their loads were being transported to Iraq.

On October 15, the *New York Times* admitted there was no truth to the tale. The two ships were said to be steaming toward the port of Aden in South Yemen, with no stops at Iraqi or Jordanian ports.

Although Moscow has refused to come out on the side of the Iranian revolution in the war, the *Daily World*, the newspaper of the U.S. Communist Party, has been highly critical of the Iraqi regime and its invasion of Iran. On international issues of this scope, the *Daily World* is unlikely to say anything without a clear signal from Moscow.

In an interview with Iranian President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr in the Paris daily *Le Monde*, the Iranian president said he had received assurances from the Soviet ambassador in Tehran that Moscow had stopped giving supplies to the Baghdad regime.

"I have no information to contradict the diplomat's statement," Bani-Sadr said. "The Soviet Union is convinced that this war can only serve the interests of American imperialism."

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Greensboro trial of racist killers nears end

By Steve Craine

GREENSBORO, N.C.—After three weeks of presenting their case, attorneys for six Klan and Nazi terrorists have been unable to cast significant doubt on their guilt. They were seen on national television attacking a peaceful anti-Klan demonstration here November 3, 1979, killing five demonstrators, members of the Communist Workers Party.

The defense raised three arguments. First, that the defendants were moti-

How to fight the Klan: Louisville unionists and civil rights activists hold united rally against right-wing terror. See page 21.

vated by patriotism and did not plan violence. Second, that after a confrontation with anti-Klan demonstrators at an all-Black housing project, the six felt their lives were in danger. Third, that the defendants were tricked into a confrontation by undercover police agents.

At a KKK rally last month three of the defendants made their intentions clear.

"I believe in white supremacy, and I'll stand up for it until the day I die," said defendant David Wayne Matthews. Jerry Paul Smith, who claims he suffered amnesia during the gun battle, stated, "The Klan did it in 1865, we can do it in the 1980's. We fought for you in the streets of Greensboro, now its time for you to fight for us," he told the rally of 100 Klan supporters.

Smith brought a "scrapbook" to the Klan rally containing autopsy photos of the five victims.

Several defense witnesses claimed they had been instructed not to bring weapons to Greensboro November 3. But most admitted on cross examination that they did bring guns. Nazi Roland Wayne Wood testified he saw a military-style semi-automatic rifle in the trunk of another Nazi's car that morning. Then he returned home and picked up his 12-gauge shotgun and two boxes of shells.

After his arrest, Matthews told police he "heard that the communists and niggers were going to shoot us, so we took some shotguns. We were cautious." In court Matthews claimed the only reason he brought two shotguns and a pistol to the demonstration was that he feared they would be stolen if he left them in his car.

The lead witness for the defense was FBI "audio expert" Bruce Koenig. He claimed that 14 of the 39 shots fired in a period of 88 seconds were fired by CWP members. But the first of those shots came 51 seconds after the first Klan shot and after a total of 11 shots came from the racists.

Koenig's testimony further backfired when he gave a second-by-second analysis of the four slow-motion videotapes of the attack under cross examination. He pointed out defendants as they fired weapons, indicating things the jurors might have missed, like a blur that proved to be a defendant firing a shotgun.

Each defendant and several other

defense eyewitnesses have been asked under cross examination to use the tapes to illustrate their testimony. As a result, the jurors have an indelible picture of the defendants blasting away at the demonstrators.

Some of the defendants have implicated each other. Wood quoted Matthews as saying, "I got three of them." Wood also testified that Jack Wilson Fowler, another Nazi defendant, replied to Matthews, "I got my share." Fowler appears prominently on videotapes firing the military-style rifle.

The defense claims entrapment by government agents. In statements to the press KKKers assert that planning for the confrontation was done by 15-

year Klan veteran Eddie Dawson. He was recently revealed to be an agent for the Greensboro Police. In the 1960s Dawson was an FBI informer in the Klan. He was convicted for shooting into a Black neighborhood. They claim Dawson changed the route of the car caravan at the last minute, to set up the confrontation.

But the arsenal they brought with them and the methodical way they went about using it gives the lie to the argument that only government agents were aware of the planned murders. A Nazi from Raleigh testified he heard Dawson explaining the plans to others in the Klan-Nazi group prior to setting out from their staging area.

Victory for anti-Klan activists

On October 6 Judge Elreta Alexander-Ralston dismissed a charge against Communist Workers Party leader Nelson Johnson and another against Marty Nathan, whose husband Mike Nathan was killed in the Klan-Nazi attack last year.

The judge also delayed sentencing two of the other widows of the victims, Dale Sampson and Signe Waller, who were convicted of disrupting a city council meeting.

The charge dropped against Johnson was for resisting arrest when cops tried to stop him from making a speech near the county courthouse August 1.

The judge earlier ruled the arrest was illegal. She explained that Johnson could not be convicted of resisting an illegal arrest.

Nathan's case was dismissed because it resulted from an illegal search of her handbag. She was charged with carrying a concealed weapon August 1.

But six CWP members still face serious felony riot charges resulting from the November 3, 1979, attack. The six, Nelson Johnson, Dori Blitz, Allen Blitz, Lacy Russell, Rand Manzella and Percy Simms will face trial on these trumped-up charges sometime after the Klan killers' trial.

Atlanta explosion adds to Black community toll

Atlanta's Black community is far from convinced that it was a faulty boiler that led to the tragic death of four children and an adult at the Bowen Homes housing project October 13.

They have good reason to be suspicious and fearful.

In little more than a year, fourteen Black children disappeared in Atlanta. Eight of them were found dead.

When the blast ripped through the day-care center at Bowen Homes, Atlanta's Mayor Maynard Jackson hurried to the scene to assure the throng of 1,500 that gathered that it was the result of a faulty hot water

boiler, not foul play.

The crowd responded to the Black mayor with boos. One man shouted back, "It was the Ku Klux Klan!"

The day's events gave them added good reason for disbelief. The deadly explosion at Bowen Homes was followed by a series of racist phone threats at eight Black day-care centers and three schools.

The mayor ordered the city's nineteen such centers shut down in order, he said, to inspect the boilers.

The night of the explosion, the city's chief of police told a jammed-packed meeting at a nearby church that while officials didn't know exactly what

happened, they were sure it was an accident.

The crowd demanded to know: If it was a gas explosion, why was there no fire? If it was a steam explosion why didn't anyone see any steam?

The chief said he didn't know.

The blast came a week after a molotov cocktail was hurled at the administrative office and warehouse of Bowen Homes.

NEW YORK—After a threatened boycott, Black students were promised police protection at New Dorp High

School on Staten Island.

The Black students, who number 100 of the 3,100-pupil school, were victims of racist violence October 10. A crowd of white students had gathered outside the school building, threatening the Blacks and shouting racist obscenities.

The Black students were gathered in several school rooms and then police-escorted buses arrived to take them home. Rocks were hurled at the departing buses.

The school's 3,100 students are jammed into facilities designed for 2,200. The school lunch room accommodates 262 students and "lunch" periods begin before 10 a.m.

... Buffalo Blacks, unions denounce murders

Continued from page 1

The city council has called for "a full investigation" by the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and unanimously adopted a resolution supporting Buffalo Unity Day.

The resolution declared: "Now is the time for Buffalo to show the besieged Black community they are not alone in their sorrow and outrage at the recent barbarous murders. The white community joins with the Black community in condemning these acts and the racist attitudes that lie behind them."

Black council member James Pitts expressed concern over the recent increase in racist murders not only in Buffalo, but in other areas of the country as well.

Pitts demanded that the district attorney and the police commissioner invoke a state of emergency and provide "protection and safety" for the Black community.

A recent poll of Blacks commissioned by WKBW-TV revealed some of the concerns of the Black community. Sixty percent of those surveyed feared for their personal safety; 52.3 percent will not travel alone; 31.7 percent feel that officials could be doing more to solve the murders.

Nearly a third believed that a right-wing group is responsible for the killings. Of these, 40 percent think it's the Ku Klux Klan.

The belief that the killings are the product of a conspiracy by the KKK or another racist organiza-

tion is entirely justified.

There have been two cross burnings during the period of the slayings.

The Buffalo *Evening News*, the major daily here, reported October 11 that a beef heart was found dangling in a locker room at the Lackawanna plant of Bethlehem Steel.

A note attached read: "Give from the heart to the KKK."

The Associated Press reported October 9, "During the funeral of one of the victims, two carloads of whites drove past, exhibiting a mannequin with

grotesque red-painted head wounds. The whites also threw red paint on the funeral hearse."

Although reluctant to concede the point in his daily press conference, District Attorney Edward Cosgrove has agreed the possibility cannot be ruled out that a group like the KKK was responsible.

Fear is not confined to the Black community. Whites also feel threatened by the grisly murders. A white cab driver told this reporter, "We're all scared."

Rev. Jesse Jackson, president of Operation PUSH, was one of the first national Black leaders to respond to the Buffalo events. He addressed a big community meeting here October 10 where he called for "a massive manhunt in order that all the people might be protected."

He added: "We collectively must demand federal protection."

Jackson was the target of a death threat from an anonymous caller during his visit here.

Also, Police Commissioner James Cunningham attacked Jackson's visit as a "publicity stunt."

A number of the city's Black leaders issued an angry statement demanding an apology from the chief. They pointed out that Jackson had been here in response to the concerns of the Black community.

Several FBI agents are reportedly involved in the police investigation of the murders. But there is no sign of any substantial federal action in this critical situation.



Ernest Jones (left) and Parlor Edwards, cab drivers, were among victims in racist murders.

Violence against Blacks

Boston racists mobilize against busing

By Nelson González

BOSTON—Racist attacks on desegregation continue to grip the Boston school system for the second week in a row. And South Boston High School is the focus, just as it has been since the start of court-ordered busing six years ago.

Authorities are trying to re-open the school in the wake of a racist attack against Black students which forced the closing of the school October 2.

When the school re-opened for ninth graders on October 6, a white boycott organized by the antibusing South Boston Information Center cut attendance to fifty-seven Black and Latin students and twenty-four white students out of a total enrollment of about 157 Black and Latin and 123 white ninth-grade students.

Then on October 9, Black student attendance was also reduced when school bus drivers were forced out on strike by the major bus contractor.

Nelson González is the Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. Congress in Massachusetts' Sixth C.D.

The drivers, organized by United Steelworkers local 8751, have continually spoken out in support of peaceful desegregation. Their strike, which is being carried out in defiance of a court back-to-work order, centers on demands to help insure the safety of children being bused.

Since the day the schools opened for the new school year an atmosphere of racist violence has prevailed. This was built up over the summer with the frame-up rape trial of a young Black man, Willie Sanders; the police murder of a fourteen-year-old Black youth, Levi Hart; and a rash of stabbings, stonings, and firebombings of Blacks, including for the first time, in the "respectable" Boston neighborhood of Brighton.

In this atmosphere, Democratic Mayor Kevin White and the new racist majority on the School Committee launched an attack on the school system and desegregation.

First, the School Committee fired superintendent Robert Wood just days before school opened. This threw planning for school assignments, bus

routes, and other matters into confusion.

Wood has been at odds with the School Committee because of his attempts to dismantle the traditional patronage system and replace it with a more "professional" system based on acceptance of desegregation.

Wood was replaced by Paul Kennedy, a long-time school department "yes" man. One of Kennedy's first acts was to announce a sweeping reorganization of the school administration. Not surprisingly, this reorganization would lead to downgrading the authority of Blacks in the administration.

Already, two key Black administrators have resigned rather than accept this downgrading.

Then Mayor White stepped in. He announced that he was refusing to approve the \$236 million budget requested by the School Committee.

Instead he imposed a \$195 million limit.

This drastic cut gives the School Committee an added argument for not living up to the contract it negotiated with the Boston Teachers' Union.

The school department estimates that the budget cut would mean the layoff of 1,900 of the system's 5,000 teachers and a further increase of class size.

Not surprisingly, these layoffs would hit the newly-hired Black and bilingual teachers hardest.

This battle over the budget, now tied up in the courts, has raised the possibility that the teachers, too, may be forced to strike.

The all-out assault on the school system by the city government, coming on top of the unchecked racist violence over the summer, has emboldened the antibusing racists.

As schools opened, they promoted confrontations and a walk-out at "Southie." Now they have organized the white student boycott, which they are enforcing, according to South Boston

High School headmaster Jerome Winegar, with coercion and threats.

Left unchecked, the attacks on the Black students will escalate. Already the police have announced that they are seeking indictments of nine students in connection with the anti-Black confrontation at Southie October 2.

Of the nine students facing indictment, eight are Black!

A broad community response is needed to put a halt to these attacks. The Boston Teachers Union, the bus drivers union, and the Black community should unite to see that desegregation and a decent school system are secured once and for all.

Bus drivers' strike issues

Boston school bus drivers struck over a number of issues involving bus safety, job conditions, hours, and commitment to agreements with the union.

One issue that sparked the walk-out was the company's refusal, after initial agreement, to hire a group of workers from another company that went out of business. Seven of those they refused to hire are union activists.

The drivers are also demanding reinstatement of a fifteen-minute safety checkup in the morning and a clean-up checkup in the afternoon. Both are supposed to be provided under the contract.

The strikers are also protesting a general reduction in working hours imposed along with insistence on maintaining the same schedules as before the reduction.

The workers are also demanding safety monitors on the buses, which have been the frequent target of rock-hurling racists.



Boston's Hyde Park. Democrats in city hall have aided antibusing forces by cutbacks in school budget. Militant/Serena Nigberg

Chicago board OKs fake desegregation plan

By Ike Nahem

CHICAGO—"Accord Ends 19 Years' Resistance."

That *Chicago Sun-Times* headline summed up the satisfied response of the capitalist media and politicians to a school "desegregation" agreement by the Chicago Board of Education.

On September 24, the board had unanimously endorsed a desegregation "consent decree" drawn up by the Justice Department and signed by a federal judge.

Now, the politicians and media assure, the problem of school segregation has finally been solved.

The reason they're so satisfied is that the consent decree is largely toothless. It does not mandate the desegregation of a single school.

The Chicago South Side NAACP attacked the plan as a "pig in the poke."

Thomas Atkins, general counsel to the national NAACP, told a press conference here, "I'm at a loss for words to describe how distressed we are."

"We don't like the decree and we will take every step to make sure the interests of Black people in Chicago are protected."

Chicago is a bastion of housing and school segregation. Black and Latino students are jammed into segregated, inferior schools and receive an inferior education designed to help ensure an unequal life.

The starting point for any serious step toward equal education must be a program to bus or otherwise transport Black and Latino students to the gen-

erally better schools provided in the white areas.

Yet, the much ballyhooed current agreement does not obligate the school board to bus a single student.

Instead, according to the September 25 *Chicago Tribune*, the board "may use a variety of desegregation techniques. Voluntary measures can include permissive transfers and magnet schools. Mandatory measures can include redrawing school attendance zones, reorganizing grade structures of schools, and pairing and clustering of schools."

Nineteen years of stalling

Black parents took their case into federal court back in 1961. Two years later their charges were upheld. Now—after nineteen years of stalling—they are offered a desegregation plan full of loopholes.

The agreement says, "Mandatory reassignment and transportation, at board expense, will be included to ensure success of the plan to the extent other techniques are insufficient."

The words "at board expense" give officials the easy alibi, "We have no money."

And that's after the other "techniques" prove "insufficient."

There's lots more wrong with this plan, which is supposed to go into effect in September 1981.

It doesn't even bother to define what a segregated school is. But it does flatly assert that it is "neither practical nor desirable" to achieve "racial balance" in all the schools.

Furthermore, in a city like Chicago, where the public schools are 86 percent

nonwhite, an effective desegregation plan must go beyond the city limits. It is necessary to bus pupils to the mainly white, and often underutilized, suburban schools.

Implicitly recognizing that the plan will leave thousands of Black and Latino students in their inferior segregated schools, the agreement states that such schools will receive "compensatory educational programs to be determined."

In a statement to the media, Lee Artz, Socialist Workers Party candidate for U.S. senator from Illinois, pointed out how phony this is.

He noted that funds for "special programs" have never been available in the past, and with the present school budget slashed by \$118 million, "it is ludicrous to now expect them to find money for these 'special programs.'"

Long fight for desegregation

So another chapter opens in the long fight for desegregation.

The 1961 lawsuit resulted in a 1964 plan that was accepted "in principle" by the school board but never implemented.

In 1965, after numerous complaints were filed, federal funds to the Chicago school system were frozen.

President Lyndon Johnson had the freeze rescinded after an appeal from the late Mayor Daley.

In 1967, measures were proposed including development of so-called magnet schools. Such schools are "voluntary," that is, separate from any legally binding and enforced busing

program. Magnet schools have never resulted in anything but token integration. In Chicago, only one such school was built.

In late 1967, a busing program was initiated to relieve overcrowding and implement very limited desegregation. Most of the program was eventually scrapped.

In 1976, the Illinois Board of Education told the Chicago school board it was illegally maintaining segregation.

In 1979, the charge was repeated by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

In response, the school superintendent put forward a plan that HEW branded illegal and unconstitutional. It referred the case to the Justice Department for "appropriate action."

That was when Mayor Jane Byrne was on the outs with Carter over her endorsement of Edward Kennedy. The Carter administration moves in the Chicago segregation issue was widely viewed as a ploy to win Black votes.

Byrne an enemy of busing

Byrne and Carter have since mended their fences. The current toothless agreement is the "appropriate action" promised in 1979.

And Mayor Byrne intends to keep it toothless. An outspoken enemy of busing for desegregation, she recently promised a parents' meeting in the all-white southwest side that they had nothing to fear from the consent decree.

In short, Chicago has not moved an inch closer to genuine school desegregation.

INS-FBI plot exposed

Gov't threatens to deport socialist miner

By Vivian Sahner

A young woman coal miner in Morgantown, West Virginia, is fighting attempts by the government to deport her because of her membership in the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

Marian Bustin, born in Scotland, has been living in the United States since 1977. A coal miner at Republic Steel Kitt No. 1 Mine in Philippi, West Virginia, twenty-six-year-old Bustin is a member of United Mine Workers Local 2095. She is a participant in the antidraft movement and a member of the Morgantown chapter of the Coalition Against Registration and the Draft.

Because of her socialist politics she has been the target of a six-year effort by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the FBI, and the State Department to deport her from this country.

This behind-the-scenes campaign was recently revealed when lawyers for the SWP and YSA lawsuit against government spying obtained copies of the INS and FBI files on Bustin that spell out their campaign of snooping and harassment. The socialists' suit, which is expected to go to trial soon, has exposed many examples of illegal government activity.

The outrageous attempt to victimize Bustin because of her politics represents an attack on the rights of all working people in this country. It's an attempt to convince us that it's not safe to speak out against the draft, not safe to be a union activist or to fight for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Coal miners and other unionists, women's rights fighters, all supporters of civil rights should condemn this deportation attempt and demand that the government end its harassment of Marian Bustin.

The case is particularly outrageous when you consider the repeated assurances by the govern-



Militant/Nancy Cole
Marian Bustin at Women Mine Workers Conference in Beckley, West Virginia, on June 1.

ment that their disruption program against members and supporters of the SWP ended in 1976.

In March 1979 Bustin first learned that the beady eyes of the FBI and INS were following her every footstep. That was when she was called into the INS office in New York.

INS inspector Godfrey England told her that her permanent resident status was in danger due to reports that she had attended meetings of the SWP in 1974 and 1975.

As part of their suit against government harassment, lawyers for the SWP and YSA recently interviewed inspector England and got copies of the INS file on Bustin.

Who asked the INS to open an investigation of Bustin? It was none other than that helping hand abroad—the American Embassy in London.

In a letter dated October 31, 1977, embassy personnel wrote to the INS informing them that they had just discovered that Bustin was a socialist.

They told the INS that if they had realized that Bustin was a member of the SWP they would have denied her visa application.

Since they slipped up, they wanted the INS to track her down and kick her out.

Counseling the INS, the embassy pointed out that on the visa application Bustin denied membership in any "subversive" organization. According to them "this was a willful misrepresentation of a material fact" and should allow the INS to deport her.

The INS took up their suggestion.

In his June 19, 1979, "Report of Investigation" on Bustin, investigator England remarks, "The Socialist Workers Party is on the list of proscribed organizations of the Attorney General's Office."

Remember the Attorney General's list? A legacy of the government witch-hunt that followed World War II, the list was established in 1947 under Democratic President Harry Truman. More than 300 organizations, including the Communist Party and SWP, were put on the list with no opportunity

Memorandum CONFIDENTIAL *A34 736 827*

TO : INS New York

DATE: October 31, 1977

: Amembassy London

FROM: IR-1 Visa Recipient Marian Margaret Bustin

Subject was issued an IR-1 IV on February 4, 1977 and arrived in the U.S. shortly thereafter. We subsequently have learned that Mrs. Bustin, under the name of Marian Blackburn, was a member of the Socialist Workers Party in New York from June, 1974 to January, 1975. The FBI has a file on her under this name. Had the Embassy been aware of this information prior to visa interview she would have been found ineligible for visa issuance under Section 212(a)(28) of the INA.

In addition, Mrs. Bustin denied membership in any subversive or Communist organization at the time of her visa interview and answered "no" to question 41(c) of form FS 510, which deals with this subject. This was a willful misrepresentation of a material fact and puts Mrs. Bustin within the provisions of Section 212(a)(19) of the INA.

Excerpt from American Embassy letter urging INS to deport Bustin: 'The FBI has a file on her. . .'

for appeal.

The list has been used down through the years to deny people jobs, open their mail, tap their phones, and burglarize their homes.

In June 1974 the Nixon administration made a big media pitch by announcing that the list was abolished.

Use of the Attorney General's list today in the Bustin case exposes this as a blatant lie.

Another memo, dated January 22, 1980, spells out special INS guidelines for the SWP: "Appendix 16-C of the Investigator's Handbook advises that its members should be closely questioned regarding their personal attachment to the principles of the Constitution."

After reading the files, one has to admit the INS really went all out to follow up the embassy's idea.

They began their search in New York, where Bustin vacationed in 1974-75 and lived from 1977 until she moved to Morgantown in early 1978.

They wrote to the New York office of the FBI in November 1977 and asked for their files. The FBI sent back copies of a 1975 report in which a "confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past," advised that Bustin attended meetings of the SWP.

Another FBI report in Bustin's file, dated November 27, 1974, is entitled "Subversive Matter—Socialist Workers Party." It states that because of her affiliation with the SWP, Bustin "is engaged in activities which could involve a violation" of laws including "Rebellion or Insurrection," "Seditious Conspiracy," and "Advocating Overthrow of the Government."

So much for the government's claim that FBI files from before 1976 will be locked away in an archive and never used anymore. Less than three weeks after the INS request in November 1977, the FBI handed over these old files.

Inspector England spent his time running around in New York City talking with Bustin's former neighbors and landlords.

When England learned in 1979 that Bustin lived in West Virginia, he sent copies of her files to the INS in Pittsburgh. A memo dated November 2, 1979, from a top official of the Pittsburgh INS, instructs an agent in the office to verify Bustin's address, find out who she lives with and her place of employment.

The INS checked with the Pittsburgh FBI and also wrote to the West Virginia State Police, who sent back the letter stamped, "NO CONVICTION RECORD."

In addition to Bustin, the INS is continuing attempts to deport SWP member Héctor Marroquín.

Marroquín fled here in 1974 after the Mexican government framed him on false charges of subversion and terrorism. He was accused of participating in a shoot-out at a bakery—at a time when he was in a Texas hospital with a broken leg and pelvis!

In 1977 he was arrested by border cops and in April 1979 the INS hauled Marroquín into a deportation hearing in Houston, Texas.

There INS prosecutor Daniel Kahn based his case solely on opposition to Marroquín's socialist views. "The U.S. doesn't grant asylum to those kinds of people," Kahn boasted.

Immigration Judge James Smith ordered Marroquín deported. In his ruling, Smith disparaged Marroquín's membership in the SWP and implied

that Marroquín should seek asylum in "Castro's Cuba" rather than the United States.

Marroquín appealed the ruling and renewed his request for political asylum to the Board of Immigration Appeals in Washington.

He is still waiting for a decision on his appeal.

This harassment is being carried out by the government despite previous court cases that have already determined that membership in the SWP is not grounds for deportation.

George Scythes is a former member of the SWP who the INS tried to deport in 1958. A native of Canada, Scythes had lived in this country for twenty-eight years. The INS held that Scythes's membership in the SWP was grounds for deportation because the SWP "advocates violence."

After a five-year legal battle, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Chicago overruled the INS on September 13, 1962. ". . . we find no substantial evidence that the SWP advocates or teaches . . . the violent overthrow of the Government of the United States," the court ruled.

The decision stymied but obviously didn't stop the INS. FBI records turned over to the SWP in its \$40 million lawsuit describe how the INS turned to the FBI for help. The G-men were more than happy to oblige.

In a memo dated April 7, 1964, the FBI wrote, "Obviously any case seeking to deport an individual because of association with the SWP immediately becomes in effect a trial of the SWP itself." They encouraged INS to try to deport SWP members because "a successful prosecution of the SWP would be of extremely great value not only to INS but to the entire Federal Government."

Government lawyers were very upset when they found out INS inspector England spilled the beans to the SWP.

On October 6 they sent a letter to Judge Thomas Griesa, who is hearing the socialists' suit. The letter argues that the SWP should be barred from obtaining any further information from the INS.

First they assert "no claims are made against the INS" in the SWP suit.

This argument has no merit whatsoever. The INS and FBI are both under the Justice Department. The SWP suit is against the Justice Department among other government agencies and officials. Harassment by the INS is no more legitimate than spying by the FBI.

The government also argues that the 1972 Supreme Court decision in the case of *Kleindienst v. Mandel* has determined that the federal court has no authority to scrutinize activities of the INS.

In that case Ernest Mandel, a leader of the Fourth International, was invited to speak in the United States by a group of university professors, but the Attorney General refused to allow a visa to be issued to him because of his political views.

The professors who invited Mandel filed suit but lost in the Supreme Court.

As undemocratic as that court decision is, it has nothing to do with the Bustin case.

Bustin is a permanent resident of the United States. As such, she is supposed to be guaranteed the same rights as any other citizen here, including freedom of speech, the right to affiliate with political organizations, and the right to privacy.

All working people in this country have a stake in demanding that the government end all attempts to deport Bustin.

Judge orders NCLC files turned over

Gov't has bad day in court in SWP suit

By Vivian Sahner

NEW YORK—The government did not have a good day in court October 6. The FBI was caught once again trying to hide evidence of its illegal activities from the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance.

In preparation for their upcoming trial against the government and its forty-year disruption program, the SWP and YSA recently requested all of the FBI files on Edward Heisler. Heisler was an FBI informer in the SWP from 1960 to mid-1980.

At the pretrial hearing on October 6, lawyers for the SWP and YSA showed federal Judge Thomas Griesa the copies of the Heisler files they received. On page after page almost every printed word was crossed out. The files are the most heavily deleted of any yet turned over in the case—and that says a lot.

Since the SWP filed the suit in 1973 the government has consistently stalled and defied court orders in an effort to hide the truth about activities of FBI informers.

In 1978 the case made national headlines when, for the first time in history, Judge Griesa ruled U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell in contempt of court for refusing to turn over the records of eighteen government finks.

Later the court of appeals threw out

the contempt citation and Judge Griesa appointed Judge Charles Breitel to review and give a report on the files to the SWP and YSA.

Referring to the Heisler files, Judge Griesa remarked at the hearing that past file deletions were "ridiculously extreme. You just have pages and pages of big blank things and it is very reminiscent of what I see here."

Presented with this fresh evidence of government foot-dragging, he told the government lawyers, "I don't want to be trying a case where that kind of performance has been engaged in with the Department of Justice cutting out big swaths of relevant documents."

He then ordered the government to work out an agreement with the socialists about restoring the deleted material. If an agreement cannot be worked out the judge threatened to take a look at the Heisler files himself and determine the information that should be turned over to the SWP and YSA.

The SWP and YSA were able to score a second victory at the hearing when the judge repeated his order that the government turn over FBI files pertaining to attacks on SWP and YSA members by a group called the National Caucus of Labor Committees.

The NCLC, also known as the U.S. Labor Party, is a small right-wing sect

with a history of carrying out physical attacks against the Communist Party, the SWP, the Black Panther Party, and others.

The SWP and YSA request was sparked by the Breitel report, which revealed that in 1973 the FBI supplied the NCLC with names, addresses, and phone numbers of SWP members.

The government has been fighting hard to keep these files under wraps. Their lawyers argue that it would be hard to round them up.

This prompted Judge Griesa to ask them at the hearing, "Is the NCLC file some huge file? . . . You know, if there is a file on the NCLC of the size there is with the SWP, you could spend ten years on that kind of project. . . did the FBI do that with all of these organizations?"

The politics and activities of the NCLC are ready-made for police agents.

In April 1973, the NCLC launched what it termed "Operation Mop-Up." The group vowed to "finish off the Communist Party."

On April 11, 1973, NCLC thugs armed with lead pipes broke into the offices of the Communist Party's youth group, the Young Workers Liberation League, at Temple University in Phila-

delphia. Six YWLL members were hospitalized.

It was later learned that one of the attackers was a parole investigator for the state of Pennsylvania and another was formerly a CIA agent in Vietnam.

Later that month sixty NCLC members tried unsuccessfully to storm the stage of a mayoral debate at Columbia University in New York City, where candidates of the CP and SWP were speaking. In a leaflet following the attack, the NCLC told the SWP, next time "we will put all of you in the hospital; we will deal with you as we did with the Communist Party."

In May 1973, the NCLC attacked people registering for a SWP/YSA Educational Conference at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Two of those attacked, Jerry Crist and Don Bechler, were hospitalized for their injuries.

In June 1973, five armed NCLC thugs jumped three SWP members in New York City. SWP member Jesse Smith was hospitalized with eleven stitches and a broken arm.

The exposure of FBI links with the NCLC illustrates how deadly serious the government is about quashing political dissent in this country.

After Judge Griesa's order for the files, the government lawyers left the courtroom looking mighty glum.

'We're standing up for our rights'

Transit workers battle Dallas union-busting

By Chris Horner

DALLAS—A walkout by 700 transit workers has erupted into the biggest confrontation in years between the labor movement and the oil-rich rulers of Dallas.

The city refuses to negotiate. It has fired more than 500 workers and is in the process of firing all the rest who refuse to scab.

Dallas Transit System (DTS) boss Cliff Franklin put it this way: "While a strike may be appropriate for Detroit, we are saying this is not appropriate for Dallas."

"I felt there was a need to tell the citizens throughout Dallas that management will run the transit system, not the employees."

The city council has voted unconditional backing to transit management.

The workers' response was expressed by Robert Hall, a driver for nearly eight years, who told the *Militant* the firings "don't frighten me at all. We're standing up for our rights as human beings. We're determined to hold out, to do what we have to for our rights."

"I hope and pray this will work," he added, "because it will open the way not only for us, but for other city employees."

B. J. Simmons, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1338, told the media, "If they think we'll roll over and play dead, they're mistaken. We have just begun to fight."

At a news conference October 13, officials of the Dallas County AFL-CIO, United Auto Workers, and other unions pledged full backing for the transit workers.

Issues in walkout

The job action began October 1. Antilabor Texas laws prohibit collective bargaining and union contracts for public employees and outlaw strikes. So the workers are calling their walkout a "protest by individuals."

The bus drivers, mechanics, and cleaners of local 1338—more than 70 percent of whom are Black—are among the lowest paid in the country. Drivers started at \$5.82 an hour when the walkout began.

While the workers want a wage increase more than the 7 percent DTS

put in effect this year, their main grievances are over working conditions. These include:

- Being on call seven days a week;
- An attendance policy of firing workers who miss more than six days in six months for any reason;
- Split shifts that extend the working day to twelve or fourteen hours, and;
- Forced overtime that can require workers to come back to the job after only a few hours off in case of "emergencies" declared by management.

An example of such "emergencies" are Dallas Cowboys football games. In a backhanded admission that the workers have won considerable public sympathy, DTS boss Franklin told the press, "People have called and said we

ought to give the drivers more pay." He says his response is, "O.K. Would you rather pay more taxes or a higher bus fare?"

At 65 cents, with additional charges for longer rides, the Dallas bus fare is already one of the highest in the country. It is scheduled to rise to 75 cents November 1.

Miserable service

Yet, the service provided is miserably inadequate. And having fired the transit workers, DTS says it will take up to two years to restore "normal" service. During the early days of the walkout, it put some fifty buses a day—driven by untrained, incompetent scabs and supervisors—on the streets

of this city of more than a million people.

Rejecting DTS claims of poverty, transit workers point to the expensive ads management is placing in the daily papers to explain its side. They also point to premium rates being paid to scabs and to fourteen-dollar-an-hour off-duty cops hired to ride shotgun on the buses.

"They've got enough money to shut it down and not care about how much money they're losing," John Stoke, a driver for three years, told the *Militant*. DTS admits that during the first week of the walkout, it took in less than \$30,000 compared to \$200,000 in a normal week.

Continued on page 8



Socialist Workers vice-presidential candidate Matilde Zimmermann visits Dallas transit workers picket line to express solidarity with walkout.

Militant/Andy Rose

Why workers should run Dallas

Socialist candidate urges aid to transit walkout

The following is taken from a speech by Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress from the Fifth District in Texas, at an October 11 campaign rally in Dallas. Sherman, who has lived most of her life in Dallas, is a member of Communications Workers of America Local 12260 at Western Electric.

Last night I joined 200 transit workers and their supporters outside of the Martin Luther King Center.

We had to rally outside because the same city officials who fired the workers for striking, the same city officials who refuse to negotiate with the union, would not even allow them to meet in what is supposed to be a public facility.

I was inspired by what I saw and heard there, by the determination and militancy of these workers.

They spoke about the conditions that forced them out. About pay that is lower than other city employees and that doesn't even pretend to keep up with inflation. About working night shift to 2 a.m. and then being expected to drive a route at 5 a.m. About an unfair attendance policy that would penalize them for an unexcused day even if one of their children were hospitalized.

Concern for service

The transit workers especially emphasized their deep concern for the Dallas bus riders.

Driver after driver said: We are professionals. We want to provide good service. But with the harassment and abuse from the DTS [Dallas Transit System], we just can't.

We know people may lose their jobs because they can't get to work on time without the bus, drivers said, but we have to stand up for what is right. We just can't take it anymore.

And evidence is that the bus riders know exactly who is to blame. Many have already signed petitions of support to the transit workers.

No driver I talked to believes the city doesn't have money to meet their demands. And neither do I.

The Democrats and Republicans find plenty of money for lining their own pockets or for handouts to big business. They just can't find it for human needs, least of all for services like the Dallas buses that are mainly used by the Black and Chicano communities.

There were much-needed pledges of solidarity at the rally. Representatives were there from the state and national AFL-CIO, from the A. Philip Randolph Institute, and from city workers organized by AFSCME [American Federa-



Lea Sherman, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Congress in 5th C.D.

tion of State, County and Municipal Employees].

The transit workers need a lot of support—both financial aid and public pressure on the city. I urge everyone here to do everything you can in your union, on your campus, or in your community to help organize that support.

Why not a worker?

It was glaringly evident that not one Democratic or Republican politician was present at the rally to support the rights of the transit workers.

Not Jim Mattox, my Democratic opponent, who has taken thousands of dollars from labor unions and who has the endorsement of the Dallas AFL-CIO.

Not Tom Pauken, my Republican opponent, an open supporter of "right to work" and other union-busting laws.

After the speeches last night, the rally was opened up for questions. And the very first question—I think it came from a bus driver—was, "Why isn't

there a bus driver on the DTS board? Why isn't there a bus driver on the city council?"

That's a very good question.

It's obvious that transit workers understand the transit system better, and care about it a lot more, than the people running it now. It's obvious that these workers should be on the DTS board and on the city council.

And in the state legislature, the U.S. Congress, and the White House, I might add.

This is exactly what the 1980 Socialist Workers campaign centers on—the need for workers not only to keep everything running, which we already do, but also to take political control and begin running society in the interests of the majority of people. We need a labor party, a party of working people, based on the strength of the union movement.

The bus driver's question wasn't answered last night. I'd like to answer it now: The reason there are no bus drivers or other workers on the city council is because our unions keep

supporting Democrats and Republicans, the two parties of big business.

My own union, CWA Local 12260, supports Mattox, who boasts that he not only believes in "free enterprise," but also practices it, having amassed a minor fortune of a half million dollars.

I don't think that's much of a qualification.

A lot better would be for my union—together with transit workers, steelworkers, farm workers, and others—to run our own candidates. Candidates who are workers themselves and who will fight for workers' needs.

Racist discrimination

It is union members and the labor movement—not the Democrats and Republicans—that stand for decent transit service to the people of Dallas. The same is true for every other public service.

It is the labor movement that understands the need for child-care centers, for aid to the unemployed, for health care, and for decent education for our children. All our children.

The Dallas School Board has fought tooth and nail against educating the children of undocumented workers. This is a shameful and racist attempt to victimize families that already suffer from cruel exploitation and poverty.

The school board has maintained a dual system of inferior education for Black and Chicano children. It has resisted every effort to desegregate the schools.

We need a labor party to fight to end racist discrimination and, for the first time in Texas history, to provide equal opportunity for Black and Chicano youth.

We need a labor party to abolish "right to work" and other anti-union laws and to guarantee the right of all workers to organize and strike.

We need a labor party to fight to put the burden of taxes where it belongs, on the rich, so we can expand and improve bus service, provide decent pay and conditions for transit workers, and eliminate the fare altogether.

It is because the Socialist Workers Party raises ideas like these—ideas that are increasingly popular—that the Democrats and Republicans who run Texas are trying to keep us off the ballot.

But whether we are on the ballot this November or not, the Socialist Workers Party will continue to campaign for support to the transit workers, for taxing the rich, and for the unions to launch a labor party.

These ideas cannot be silenced and they cannot be stopped.

...walkout

Continued from page 7

The DTS bosses "don't feel any sympathy for the passengers," Stokes said. "The people who support us are the poor people, the minorities. They're the ones who need us. The rich ones who've got chauffeurs, they don't need us and they don't support us."

Patricia Parker, another driver with three years on the job, told the *Militant*: "The DTS doesn't give a hoot about the riders.

"I've felt the system tightening up and I knew one day I'd just snap. I couldn't go on working seven days a week. I couldn't maintain a budget paying 1980s prices on a 1960s paycheck.

"They have no respect for us as individuals. Well, I have no respect for the DTS. It's a dictatorship. There's no democracy in Dallas."

Scabs endanger riders

The workers explain that the city's attempt to run buses with untrained drivers and little upkeep is endanger-

ing lives. Roger Johnson, a driver for twelve years, told the *Militant* he worked as an instructor. He normally trains new drivers for thirty days. One scab who had been his student for only three days is now out driving.

"When the first rain comes," he said, "there's going to be a lot of people hurt, a lot of people killed."

Both sides in this battle know the stakes are high.

Dallas is only eight percent unionized. It has low wages, poor social services, and low taxes on business. This is the "good business climate," the city officials are determined to uphold, using "right to work" laws and every other antilabor weapon they can find.

Dallas workers say it's time for a change. If the city can get away with firing its entire transit work force to break a union, all working people will be the losers.

At the labor support news conference October 13, Willie Chapman, AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer, stated, "These workers have tried for over six months to get an attentive ear from manage-

ment or city hall. The next step is to turn to the citizens of Dallas."

Solidarity

Local 1338 has already begun to reach out to the riding public, which is overwhelmingly Black and Chicano. Thousands of signatures have been collected on petitions addressed to the city council.

On October 11 a support rally of 200 was held at the Martin Luther King Center in South Dallas, the major Black community.

After the rally a member of Communications Workers of America Local 12260, which organizes the three thousand workers at Western Electric, asked the transit workers to send a speaker to her union meeting the next week.

ATU Local President B.J. Simmons personally went to the meetings for both shifts and spoke. Dozens of petitions were signed and a resolution of support unanimously passed.

One CWA member exclaimed that the antilabor laws in Texas are "disgusting," that workers here are denied

the rights the Polish workers won.

Meanwhile the picket lines remain strong, with nearly 100 workers daily marching and carrying signs.

Their comments show this struggle is far from over:

"Business comes first, everybody else second. 'Right to work' has everybody bound to the system."

"Until hell freezes over, I'm not driving my bus. *It must change!*"

DALLAS

SUPPORT THE TRANSIT WORKERS

Speakers from labor movement, community, Socialist Workers Party

Saturday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.

5442 E. Grand Avenue

Donation: \$1.50—proceeds to transit workers

Auspices: Militant Forum, For more information call (214) 826-4711

Oct. 25-Nov. 4: special campaign sales planned

By Nancy Rosenstock

Socialists across the country are planning for an all-out push in the final week and a half of the election campaign.

The ten-day period from October 25 to November 4 has been set aside for a big drive to spread the word about the Socialist Workers Party campaign. The SWP is running Andrew Pulley for president and Matilde Zimmermann for vice-president.

The centerpiece of the special drive will be to make a big leap forward in the campaign to win 8,000 new readers to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*. The goal for the ten-day period will be to gather more than 1,000 new subscriptions. Combined with this will be the distribution of thousands of pieces of socialist campaign literature.

The next issues of the *Militant* and *PM* will be special election issues. The *Militant* will have articles on why electing Carter is no solution to fighting Reagan's right-wing program; Pulley and Zimmermann tours in the Midwest and southern California; and coverage of SWP local campaigns and candidates.

PM will also be devoted primarily to the elections. Included in the issue will be a statement by Pulley on the need for a labor party; a speech by Young Socialist Alliance leader Kara Obradović on the socialist alternative; "Why women need a labor party" by Matilde Zimmermann; and an interview with Pulley on his trip to Grenada.

Our aim during this pre-election final push is for socialists all over the country to campaign door to door in working-class neighborhoods, introducing people to the *Militant* and *PM*. Socialists will also be on the street corners, in front of plant gates, and on the college campuses.

Socialist workers in the plants will

be on an all-out effort to talk with their co-workers about the campaign and about the *Militant* and *PM*.

For areas that are behind schedule in the subscription drive this will be an opportunity to catch up during the ten day period. Some areas that are already ahead of schedule will be raising their goals.

Our experience so far in the subscription drive proves that this special election blitz can be very successful. Areas that are getting the best results from door-to-door campaigning report that workers are looking for papers that take sides on important questions. People want to get into discussions and are interested in what socialist workers have to say about the big political questions on their minds.

An important part of the pre-election blitz will be the campaigning socialists do among Spanish-speaking workers. Focusing in on gathering new subscribers to *PM* is a priority for the pre-election blitz. We want to use this ten-day period to try to catch up on this aspect of the drive, which has lagged behind.

The final campaigning will culminate in election-night celebrations held across the country. Supporters of Pulley and Zimmermann will be able, via a national phone hook-up, to hear speeches by both candidates. These celebrations will help to bring together all supporters of the socialist campaign and will help to recruit many of them to the Young Socialist Alliance and the SWP.

If you would like to participate in this drive, please contact the SWP or YSA in your city (see page 23) or contact the Militant Circulation Office at 14 Charles Lane, New York, New York 10014. We will rush the subscription sellers kit off to you. (Kit includes sample copies of the *Militant* and *PM* plus socialist campaign literature.)

Subscription scoreboard

As of October 11, 1980

AREA	MILITANT GOAL	SUBS REC'D	PM GOAL	SUBS REC'D	TOTAL GOAL	TOTAL REC'D	%
Phoenix	55	49	20	7	75	56	75
Kansas City	100	74	10	5	110	79	72
Indianapolis	110	84	10	1	120	85	71
Milwaukee	175	126	25	12	200	138	69
Gary	85	66	15	2	100	68	68
Atlanta	140	92	10	2	150	94	63
Dallas	75	51	25	8	100	59	59
Piedmont	100	58	0	1	100	59	59
Salt Lake City	135	76	15	7	150	83	55
Morgantown	100	54	0	0	100	54	54
Washington, D.C.	110	77	45	6	155	83	54
Iron Range	90	43	0	5	90	48	53
Denver	85	50	15	1	100	51	51
Detroit	185	96	15	5	200	101	51
New Orleans	90	47	10	2	100	49	49
Tidewater	120	59	0	0	120	59	49
Cincinnati	120	53	0	2	120	55	46
Newark	240	125	60	11	300	136	45
Portland	95	43	0	0	95	43	45
Twin Cities	190	87	10	3	200	90	45
Albuquerque	60	33	20	2	80	35	44
Baltimore	115	51	5	2	120	53	44
San Diego	70	34	30	10	100	44	44
Miami	75	35	15	4	90	39	43
Pittsburgh	165	67	10	4	175	71	41
Cleveland	100	47	30	4	130	51	39
Manhattan	300	145	200	51	500	196	39
Chicago	300	104	50	23	350	127	36
Brooklyn	300	123	100	18	400	141	35
Seattle	210	76	15	3	225	79	35
Louisville	100	33	0	1	100	34	34
Toledo	60	20	0	0	60	20	33
Capital District	100	34	20	3	120	37	31
Philadelphia	115	37	35	8	150	45	30
San Antonio	60	21	30	6	90	27	30
Los Angeles	200	70	150	14	350	84	24
Oakland	125	30	50	2	175	32	18
St. Louis	120	20	0	1	120	21	18
San Jose	100	10	50	7	150	17	11
Boston	210	19	40	0	250	19	8
San Francisco	100	10	100	2	200	12	6
Houston	105	6	35	0	140	6	4
Birmingham	50	0	0	0	50	0	0
TOTAL	5540	2435	1270	245	6810	2680	39
Miscellaneous		58		14	190	72	38
National Teams		119		7	1000	126	13
TOTAL GOAL SHOULD BE	5540	2612	1270	266	8000	2878	36
		2327		533		3360	42

Perspectiva Mundial: a socialist magazine

By Martin Koppel

Expanding the readership of *Perspectiva Mundial* is a key part of the Socialist Workers Party's election campaign. This fall supporters of the presidential ticket of Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann are setting out to win nearly 1,300 new subscribers to *PM*, the Spanish-language biweekly newsmagazine supporting the campaign.

During the first four weeks, sales of *PM* have been running behind schedule. Many branches are discussing special efforts to increase subscription sales in the Latino neighborhoods and other areas. For example, in Chicago, teams recently went to Little Village and sold eleven *PM* subs.

I had a talk with Aníbal Yáñez, managing editor of *PM*, about the importance of the magazine.

Yáñez told me that Latinos—Chicanos, Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Central and South Americans—are the fastest growing oppressed minority in this country. They now number some 20 million.

Latinos overwhelmingly form a part of the working class, and are more concentrated in industrial jobs than is the general work force.

A higher percentage of Latino workers, like Black workers, join unions to defend their rights. District 38 of the United Steelworkers, which recently passed a resolution favoring a labor party, has a large number of Chicanos among its 70,000 members.

Such facts, said Yáñez, support the view of the Socialist Workers Party that Latino workers play a crucial role in the struggles of working people in this country.

The revolutions in Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada, and the struggles in El Salvador and elsewhere, have a big impact on the Latino population. "Latinos are inspired when they hear the truth about these revolutions. And Carter's threats and military moves against these revolutions are radicalizing young Latinos, who don't want to be drafted to fight their own sisters and brothers."

Yáñez emphasized that Spanish-speaking people here want to know what's really happening in the world. "Only *PM* will give them the working-class side of the story."

Yáñez cited in-depth articles documenting U.S. military involvement in El Salvador as an example of the magazine's coverage of Latin America.

Major speeches by Fidel Castro and leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution are published regularly.

PM covers events such as the recent conference in solidarity with El Salvador and the upcoming series of national antidraft events.

Another important subject of concern for Spanish-speaking people here is the capitalist offensive against our living standards and democratic rights. Latino workers bear the brunt of the attack, and are especially responsive to the proposals of the Socialist Workers 1980 campaign. Tens of thousands of Latinos from San Diego to New York signed to put the socialist candidates on the ballot.

Topics covered in the past few issues, Yáñez told me, included exposés of the Carter, Reagan, and Anderson campaigns; an update on the SWP's fight to defend its right to be on the ballot in Missouri, California, Texas, and Michi-

gan; a Cuban bus driver's independent campaign in Miami; and why Chicanos need a labor party.

Additional articles have covered the copper miners' strike in the Southwest, the fight for the Equal Rights Amendment, and the concentration-camp treatment meted out to new Cuban émigrés in the United States.

The next issue will be devoted primarily to the elections. It will include articles on why women need a labor party, and a speech by a leader of the Young Socialist Alliance on the socialist choice for 1980.

Supporters of Pulley and Zimmermann are bringing the socialist alternative to Spanish-speaking workers all over the country by selling *Perspectiva Mundial*. Thirty-three branches of the SWP have taken subscription goals for *PM* along with their *Militant* goals.

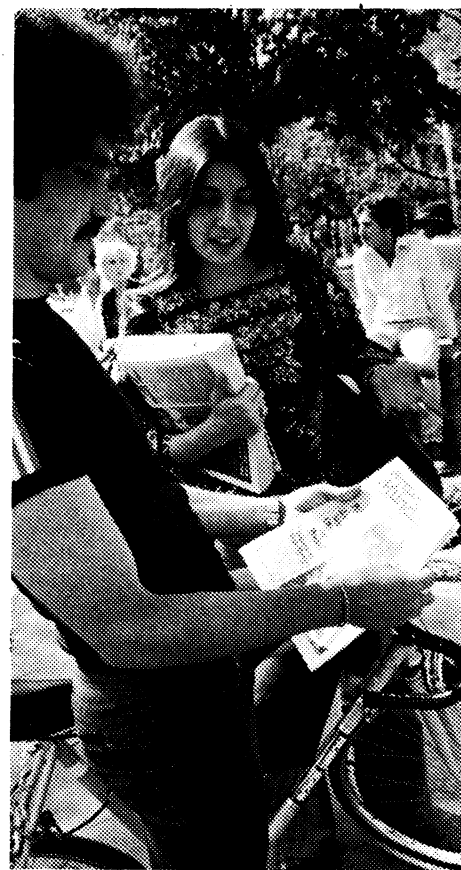
Yáñez explained that this campaign is being carried out primarily by selling door to door in Latino communities. Teams of *PM* salespeople also distribute SWP campaign literature in Spanish. Many areas have sent *PM* teams to campuses where Latino students go to school.

Some of the most enthusiastic *Perspectiva Mundial* supporters are activists in Latin American solidarity committees. For example, seventeen people bought subscriptions at the recent conference in solidarity with El Salvador, held in Los Angeles. Seven more were sold at a similar conference last weekend in Washington, D.C. This was out of a total of 150 and 175 people, respectively.

"We also want to pay special attention to sales to industrial workers," Yáñez said. In Manhattan socialists

have received a good response selling in the garment district, when thousands of Latino workers pour into the street during their lunch break.

Yáñez concluded by saying, "All supporters of Pulley and Zimmermann should help campaign by selling *Perspectiva Mundial*. It is an excellent way for Latinos to find out about the socialist alternative in 1980 and a party that can honestly say: "Nuestro partido es tu partido."



What Polish workers are fighting for

How AFL-CIO leaders cover up the truth

By Fred Feldman

Top union bureaucrats in this country rushed to portray themselves as the best friends of the heroic Polish workers. Resolutions and statements "hailing" their strikes were rushed out by the officialdom of virtually every international union.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland announced the formation of a Polish Workers Aid Fund supposedly to help the new unions. To get it started, he announced, the AFL-CIO Executive Board was contributing \$25,000.

Douglas Fraser, president of the United Auto Workers, tried to claim a little credit for the workers' triumph. He bragged that the UAW had been funneling money to the strike committee in Gdansk.

It's not surprising that the bureaucrats seek to bask in the reflected glory of the Polish workers. They know that millions of union members and other workers were inspired by the militancy and unity of the Polish strikers, their defiant assertion of the right to organize, their resistance to austerity measures, their political leadership of the entire nation, and their success in forcing massive concessions from the government.

Falsifying struggle

But these bureaucrats are no friends of the Polish workers. Their response has a sinister purpose. They want to use declarations of support to conceal the real meaning of the Polish strikes from American workers—and even to turn it into its opposite.

According to the union bureaucrats, the Polish workers are simply struggling to achieve the state of grace supposedly achieved by organized American workers—"free" trade unions in a capitalist system.

"What is happening in Poland has nothing to do with political theories involving the ownership of the means of production or the dictatorship of the proletariat," an editorial in the September 6 *AFL-CIO News* assured us.

All that was involved, declared United Steelworkers President Lloyd McBride, was the Polish workers' "determination to have free trade unions capable of bargaining about the terms of their employment."

United Mine Workers President Sam Church was more blunt. The Polish strikes, he said, "show how weak a government-controlled, artificial economy really is. Free unions and a free economy go hand in hand."

In other words, the Polish strikes just go to show how lucky we are to have capitalism. (What the bloody history of miners' strikes in this country shows about capitalism wasn't taken up by Church.)

But that's not the way the Polish workers see it.

Workers want socialism

"One of the things we most want is to have in our hands the land and the factories in which we work," explained strike leader Lech Walesa.

"Nothing to do with . . . the ownership of the means of production"? Nothing to do with whether capitalists or proletarians rule?

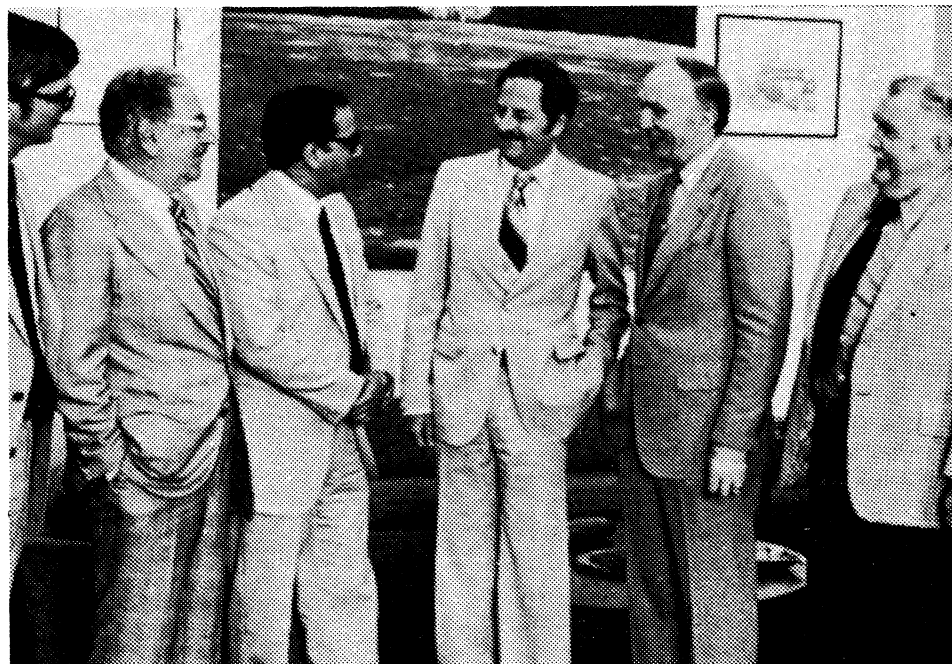
There is a word for the aspirations of the workers "to have in our hands the land and the factories in which we work"—socialism.

It is far beyond the "bargaining about the terms of employment" that is the goal and end-all for the union bureaucrats in this country.

The Polish workers are talking about the working class asserting its right to control the economy and organize the economy in the interests of the great majority.

This is a very different consciousness from the one that capitalist rulers and their bureaucratic collaborators try to instill into American workers.

The bureaucrats' whole existence is



Top, strike leader Walesa addresses Polish workers; below, AFL-CIO Interamerican representative Andrew McLellan (far left) and AFL-CIO Secretary Treasurer William Donahue (second from right), meet with Otilio Vleytez, Minister of Planning in brutal El Salvador junta (second from left). AFL-CIO tops oppose everything Polish workers and El Salvador's people fight for.

based on collaborating with the employers to keep workers in their place as dues-paying wage slaves. They insist that workers shouldn't be concerned with who owns the means of production—these belong by right to capitalist profiteers. They tell us that it is only natural that we should vote for capitalist parties. Workers, you see, aren't "qualified" to rule. And they tell us that it is our patriotic duty to fight and die for big business at the order of a capitalist government.

The Polish workers' demands for elimination of bureaucratic privileges and gross inequality doesn't look very good to these officials, bureaucrats themselves. They are continually increasing the yawning pay differential between themselves and the average union member.

The few bucks they promise to shell out to the Polish workers don't amount to much in the light of their actions to weaken the workers in Poland and around the world.

ILA boycott

When the Polish workers went on strike, the gangster-ridden leadership of the International Longshoremen's Association, headed by Thomas Gleason, imposed a boycott of Polish goods. There had been no call for such a boycott by the Polish strikers.

To the contrary, the strikers were doing their utmost to ensure that the supply of food to the Polish people wasn't interrupted. But Gleason's enforcers held back thousands of tons of grain that were needed by workers and farmers in Poland.

Far from condemning this strike-breaking action and demanding that the ILA hoods be tossed out of the labor movement, AFL-CIO President

Kirkland endorsed it and announced plans to extend it internationally. (The boycott was lifted September 2.)

This boycott was a betrayal of the Polish workers and of their new unions. Their struggle was simply a pretext for the AFL-CIO tops to apply their policy of seeking economic and diplomatic boycotts against the Soviet Union and other countries that have rejected the blessings of capitalism. This policy is hated by workers throughout the Soviet bloc.

But the AFL-CIO leadership's attacks on the Polish workers go much further.

They support the arms budget—and call for spending still more on weapons of death. They support the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which rings the Soviet bloc with missiles, troops, and military bases. And they call for Washington's NATO allies to allow still more nuclear-tipped missiles to be stationed on their soil.

Some of these missiles target Gdansk, Szczecin, and Warsaw—a fact the Polish workers do not appreciate.

Backs war drive

The AFL-CIO leadership supports draft registration for men and women—so that the U.S. government will have plenty of cannon fodder to use against peoples anywhere in the world who fight for the same things that the Polish workers are fighting for.

U.S. imperialism's militarization drive—cheered on by Kirkland and company—forces states where capitalism has been overthrown like Poland to undertake big military expenditures. The arms race is a contributing factor in the economic difficulties that the

Polish workers are fighting to overcome.

And, of course, Kirkland, Fraser, Church, and McBride never utter a word against the banks that have imposed extortionate interest rates on Poland, and force the government to devote almost all its foreign export earnings to keeping up interest payments. They never suggest that interest-free credits and other aid be given to Poland. After all, that would violate the laws of a "free economy."

In announcing the "fund" for the Polish workers, Kirkland declared, "We are doing it today in other parts of the world."

Arm of imperialism

From South Korea to Chile, from Thailand to Nicaragua, the AFL-CIO's American Institute for Free Labor Development serves as a conduit for funds to "free unions" that slavishly support the most reactionary regimes, and often to these regimes themselves.

In El Salvador, for instance, the AIFLD is helping a bloody junta that has killed thousands of workers and peasants in 1980 alone. This junta has imprisoned many striking unionists and union leaders.

The AIFLD works everywhere to help create "free unions" that "fight communism" but don't utter a peep against the interests of U.S. big business and its government.

In the world arena the AFL-CIO bureaucracy acts not as an arm of the U.S. labor movement, but as an extension of the State Department, Central Intelligence Agency, and Pentagon.

This role is not new. It stretches from the end of World War II—when the bureaucrats helped block struggles for socialism in Europe and split the labor movements of France, Italy, and other countries—down through the Vietnam War and to the present.

Their actions have brought organized labor's officialdom into deep discredit among working people around the world.

That's why the Kremlin was able to jump on the piddling contributions by the AFL-CIO to make propaganda against the Polish workers.

The AFL-CIO bureaucrats hate and fear the struggles of the Polish workers, which threaten everything they stand for. Above all, they hate the deep anticapitalist consciousness of these workers and their record of struggle for socialism.

Revolution in Poland

The consciousness of the Polish workers is a result of conquests they won in the past—gains American workers have yet to make. Capitalism has been abolished there.

At the end of the Second World War, the Polish workers and farmers rose up against an oppressive and exploitative old order that had brought nothing but misery and decline.

Over the years that followed, the capitalists were expropriated, landlordism was eliminated, and a planned economy was instituted. That meant that production was no longer organized for the benefit of capitalist profiteers.

The workers became the ruling class in Polish society.

But a huge obstacle remained to their exercising this new role. Due to occupation by the Soviet army, a bureaucratic caste modeled on the one governing in the Soviet Union was imposed.

As in the Soviet Union, the bureaucrats concentrated political power in their hands in order to protect the privileges they were accumulating. They got the highest salaries, country homes, automobiles, and access to special stores where the best food and other goods were available.

Continued on page 19

Solidarity with Central America



and the Caribbean

Grenadian publications

The *Free West Indian* and the *New Jewel*—publications from revolutionary Grenada—are available to U.S. readers.

The *Free West Indian* is the official paper of the People's Revolutionary Government and the island's national newspaper. Under the Gairy dictatorship, the paper was known as the *West Indian*, but was renamed after the March 1979 revolution. The *Free West Indian* is a weekly twenty-four page tabloid that includes news stories and features on Grenada, as well as coverage of Caribbean and international events.

The *New Jewel*, also a weekly, is the organ of the New Jewel Movement—the revolutionary party of the country. With the "Year of Education and Production," as one of its subheadlines, recent issues of the *New Jewel* have focused on the PRG's campaigns and programs such as the land reform program; the literacy campaign; and recruitment to the militia.

For U.S. subscriptions to both publications, write to the Grenada Mission to the United Nations, Room 905, 141 East 44th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017.

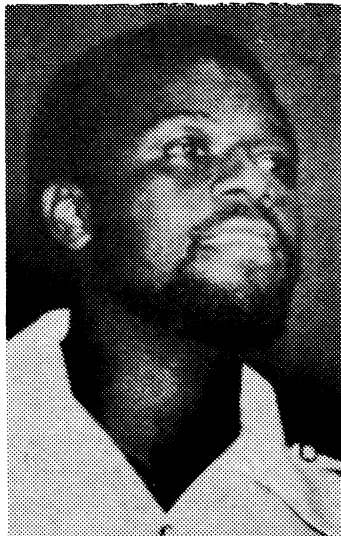
Canada-Grenada Friendship Society

A meeting of more than 200 people celebrated the launching of the Canada-Grenada Friendship Society in Toronto last month.

The October 6 issue of the *Socialist Voice*, the bi-weekly newspaper that reflects the views of the Revolutionary Workers League of Canada, featured a report on the September 13 event and an interview with Caldwell Taylor, Grenadian ambassador to the United Nations.

Taylor, a guest speaker at the gathering, told the crowd that, "Our revolution is internationalist and militantly anti-imperialist."

During his *Socialist Voice* interview, Taylor stressed the importance of solidarity groups like Canada's to the Grenadian revolution.



CALDWELL TAYLOR

U.S. involvement in El Salvador

The Ecumenical Program for Interamerican Communication and Action (EPICA) has published a thirty-page paper entitled "History and Motivations of U.S. Involvement in the Control of the Peasant Movement in El Salvador."

The paper assesses the role of the American Institute for Free Labor Development (AIFLD)—an AFL-CIO agency—in the agrarian reform program and among Salvadoran peasants from 1970-1980.

The authors—Carolyn Forché, a lecturer at the University of Virginia, and Philip Wheaton, EPICA director—explain: "Officially, the AFL-CIO claims that AIFLD was created 'to buttress democracy in Latin America through free and strong labor unions.' In fact, AIFLD's activities are chiefly aimed at counteracting 'communist' organizing among peasants. Its training seminars held both in El Salvador and in Front Royal, Virginia (originally in Georgetown, Washington, D.C.) stressed the 'dangers of communism' which are confronting 'democratic' trade unions in Latin America. The primary work of AIFLD is clearly political since the AFL-CIO has its own Latin American labor affiliate, the Regional Organization of Inter-American workers (ORIT). . . ."

Copies of the EPICA document are available for \$2.50 from: EPICA, 1470 Irving Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20010.

South African solidarity with El Salvador

A statement released by the Isandlwana Revolutionary Effort of Azania (South Africa), a current in the Black Consciousness Movement, expressed solidarity with the Salvadoran struggle.

The statement, which appeared in the June 1980 issue of *Isandlwana*, noted the cooperation between South Africa's white minority regime and the Salvadoran junta.

The statement read in part:

"The intensification of mass struggle by the El Salvadoran people, particularly since the second half of 1979, has brought victory in sight. . . ."

"The similarity of oppression and exploitation in South Africa and Latin America calls for closer cooperation between Azanian and Latin American revolutionaries. In this background, we hail the action by the El Salvadoran guerrilla group, the Popular Liberation Forces, who are holding hostage S.A. racist representative Archibald Gardner Dunn in San Salvador."

It was announced October 10 that Dunn had been killed.

* * *

The Santa Clara, California Central Labor Council unanimously passed a resolution disassociating itself from AIFLD's activities and programs in El Salvador during its September 15 meeting.

—Osborne Hart

Please send contributions on activities in your area to: Osborne Hart, 14 Charles Lane, New York, N.Y. 10014.

Warns of rightist terror Hundreds in N.Y. hear Grenadian leader

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—An overflow crowd of 600 jammed into the Colonial Mansion, a community center in the heart of Brooklyn's Caribbean community, October 12. They came to hear the minister of labor, works, and communications, and acting foreign minister of the People's Revolutionary Government of Grenada, Selwyn Strachan.

Some were unable to squeeze into the crowded hall. Others obtained standing room along the walls and in the aisles and doorway.

About fifteen supporters of Eric Gairy, the former Grenadian dictator who was ousted by the revolution of March 1979, stood outside the hall.

As the crowd waited, Black United Front member Adeyemi Bendele showed slides of the celebration in Grenada of the first anniversary of the revolution. Bendele was part of a delegation of Afro-Americans who went to Grenada last March 13.

Strachan received a standing ovation as he approached the microphone. He reported both on new accomplishments of the revolution and the rise in counterrevolutionary terrorist attacks.

Strachan explained, "Just two weeks ago some people began to circulate a pamphlet attacking the revolution. It tried to give the impression that the Cubans who are helping to rebuild the country are a threat to Grenada. They say that the Cubans are building the airport in order to take over the country."

Strachan continued, "They say that the leadership of our party is divided. That the Deputy Prime Minister Bernard Coard had his passport taken away and cannot travel. That the comrade in command of the army, Hudson Austin, was arrested and put in jail, and that a Cuban is now in charge of the army."

These lies were met with laughter from the audience.

Strachan resumed, "More seriously, comrades, a week ago Saturday last, another bomb was set off, at the city of Sauters in St. Patrick's Parish. Fortunately no one was injured. A note was left where the bomb was set, addressed to Prime Minister Maurice Bishop. This note said, 'If the Cubans are not out of Grenada within three days we will declare a state of war.'"

The imperialist campaign against Grenada has targeted Cuba. Strachan pointed out that despite "facing many difficulties Cuba has given generous aid to the Grenada revolution. They are providing doctors, technical assistance, and are building an international airport.

"In every other Caribbean island the people are paying \$1.25 for a pound of sugar," Strachan explained. "Grenadians pay sixty-eight cents a pound for sugar. We are able to do this because Cuba has provided us with 400 tons of sugar free of charge and 1,100 tons below world market prices.

"And these people attack Cuba. These are the same people who could only offer us \$5,000 when we asked them for aid."

At that point some yelled out, "Long live Fidel." The crowd burst into applause.

Strachan explained that the campaign against Cuba and the rise in counterrevolutionary terrorism is the response that opponents of the revolution make to the continued gains for the working people, and the growth and consolidation of the revolution.

Strachan reported on new measures to be taken against counterrevolutionary terrorists. The government will enact a law providing for the death penalty for those found guilty of terrorist acts that result in the death of others.

"Just last week we held a meeting with the doctors in our country," he said, "This was a very productive meeting. After this meeting the doctors agreed that all those working with the government will no longer charge the people an attendant's fee. This is the first time this has ever happened. This will mean that all our people will be able to get medical care at any facility in the country.

"One year ago there was only one dental clinic in the entire country. Today there is a dental clinic in every parish. We have now made available 500 more scholarships that will go to the children of the working poor."

Included in the speakers program with Strachan were Caldwell Taylor, Grenada's ambassador to the United Nations; Kanute Burke, consul general to the UN; and Sonny Mark of the United Grenadians of New York.



Militant/Lou Howort

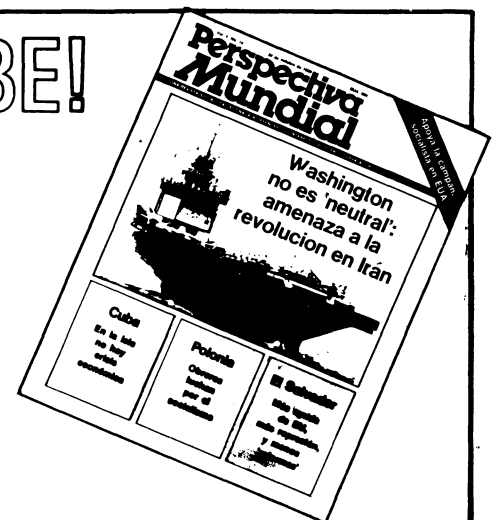
Selwyn Strachan defended Cuba's aid to Grenadian revolution.

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'Perspectiva Mundial' is the Spanish-language sister publication of the 'Militant.' Like the 'Militant,' it carries regular coverage of the labor movement and the struggles for social justice in the United States and abroad, plus news and analysis with a special emphasis on the workers movement in Latin America.

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By Suzanne Haig

The 1980 national conference of the National Organization for Women, held October 3-5 in San Antonio, Texas, was marked by a serious discussion of the major issues facing women today.

The 1,400 members present—including 672 delegates—discussed and debated the elections, the bipartisan attack on women's rights, defeating the right wing, building an alliance with the labor movement, and the fight against the draft and nuclear power.

The breadth and intensity of the discussion demonstrated the deep anger women feel because of the government's failure to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, and its chipping away of abortion rights. It also reflected the growing recognition of NOW members that the fight against the draft, nuclear power and racism are an integral part of the battle for women's equality.

The framework of the conference was the presidential elections. NOW activists saw before them the choice of Reagan, who is openly calling for turning the clock back on women's rights, or Carter, who over the past four years has stabbed them in the back on the issues of the ERA, abortion rights, and affirmative action.

A lively and rich discussion on whether women should support Carter as the lesser evil to Reagan occurred at a special hearing on the elections, chaired by NOW President Eleanor Smeal.

Women presented a wide spectrum of opinion. One was for picketing Reagan and Bush to expose their position on the ERA and reproductive rights. Another urged NOW to endorse John Anderson.

Mollie Yard, a Philadelphia NOW leader and Democratic Party activist, called for working to defeat Reagan. "Ronald Reagan is the titular head of the radical right in this country," she said. "We must canvas, stuff envelopes . . . to take away electoral college votes from Reagan."

Toni Caraballo, a national board member from California, cited the dangers of Reagan in office. She called on NOW "to work with the Democratic Party to reelect the incumbent president Jimmy Carter."

Anti-Carter sentiment

This did not sit well with the participants. But the most unpopular proposal was one calling on NOW to explicitly endorse and support Carter.

Speaker after speaker voiced their opposition to Carter, receiving loud applause and cheers of support. One woman insisted that NOW could never support a man who denied funds for abortion to poor women, sending them to back-alley butchers. Another pointed to Carter's support for draft registration, the largest military budget in history, and nuclear power.

A NOW member from Georgia pointed out that Carter promised the ERA in 1976 and it would be a "betrayal to advocate the reelection of such a person."

Yet what became clear in the discussion was that although most women were against both Reagan and Carter, they were caught in the bind of believing they had to choose between the two.

A position pointing the way forward out of this impasse of choosing between two evils was proposed by Lea Sherman, a NOW member from Dallas and also a member of the International Association of Machinists. At its convention in September, the IAM voted not to endorse either Reagan or Carter, but to begin a discussion on building a labor party.

NOW should do the same thing, Sherman said. "Such a party would represent the needs of the women's movement. It would be a party based on the unions and would be in our interests and the interests of all working people."

Participants at the Labor/Employ-

ment Issues hearing felt so strongly about this idea that they passed a resolution calling upon NOW to participate in this labor party discussion.

Shirley Pasholk from Cleveland NOW said that her union, the United Steelworkers of America, held a recent constitutional convention where a representative of the Canadian labor party, the New Democratic Party, pointed out that the United States is the only major industrial country without national health insurance and it is also the only major industrial country without a labor party.

Lisa Kannenberg, a NOW member from Pittsburgh and a member of the United Electrical Workers, which has passed a similar motion on a labor party discussion, explained, "My union has taken a number of good positions on questions affecting women, including reproductive rights. But the idea of my union being part of a political party, a labor party, that would have power in the government to enact legislation to benefit women's rights and the rights of all workers is an important discussion." Such a party, she explained, would give us a real political base to fight for women's rights.

Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president of the United States, also spoke for this idea at the elections hearing. "I think that women in this country deserve and must demand something better than a lesser evil." For NOW to help reelect Carter, she continued, would be "saying that what we have gotten from him over the last four years is all right and that we're ready for four more years of the same. It would put us behind hundreds of thousands of people in this country who are fed up with the two parties and Carter and who want some kind of change."

The final plenary of the conference, however, overwhelmingly adopted a resolution based on the proposal made by Mollie Yard in the election hearing. It called for NOW to "actively oppose the election of Ronald Reagan as President, and work in every state to ensure that he does not receive 270 Electoral College votes;" to "turn out votes for our friends in Congress and in the state legislatures;" "to withdraw the National Board resolution of December, 1979 [that opposed Carter's reelection];" and to "endorse the platform of the Democratic Party as it pertains to women's rights."

Many saw their vote for this proposal as a step forward, as a statement that they would fight against Reagan's anti-ERA, anti-abortion platform and against the right-wing groups associated with his campaign.

Although, in effect, the resolution calls on NOW members to work for Carter's reelection, the tremendous anti-Carter sentiment at the conference prevented a formal endorsement.

How to defeat Reaganism

Opposition to any resolution to explicitly endorse Carter showed that most NOW members would vote for Carter not as a positive alternative to Reagan, but as a lesser evil.

These women are like many working people today who are refusing to endorse Carter, are fed up with his austerity program, are deeply concerned about Reagan's openly right-wing campaign, and are looking for a way out.

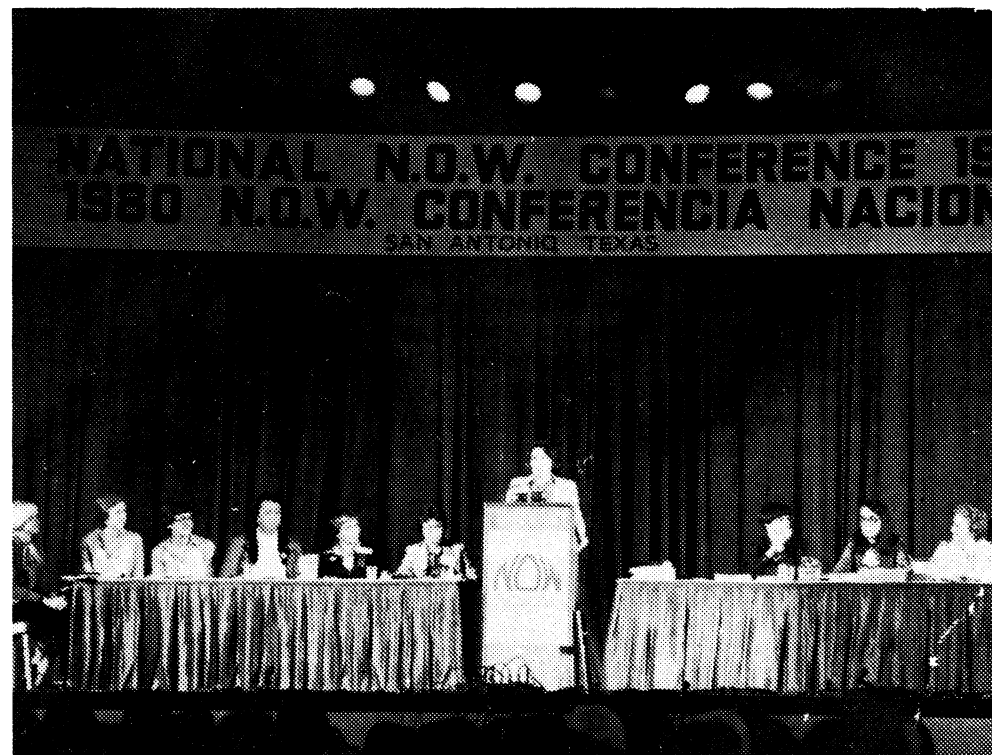
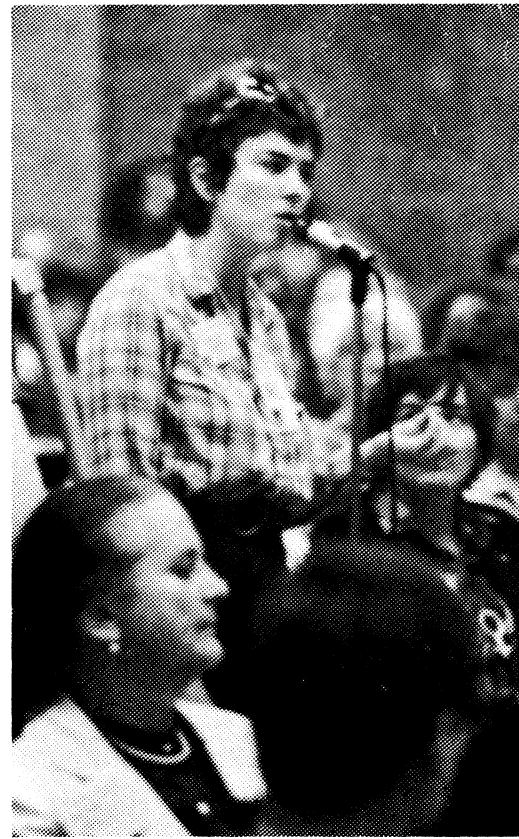
The resolution that passed, however, does not offer a way out. Just the opposite. It locks women into support for the Democratic Party and ties them into the framework of seeking change through the two parties of big business, a strategy that has consistently failed in the past and *will not stop the government attacks or the right-wing offensive.*

Carter is loyal to the same big-business forces as Reagan. He has faithfully represented them while in office for the past four years. He has dutifully carried out policies in their interests, including cutting back on Medicaid funding for abortion, blocking the ERA, reinstating draft registration,



Carter's stalling on ERA and Reagan's outright opposition are causing women to loo

NOW di elections





alternatives to two-party politics.

Militant/Susan Ellis

SCUSSES & draft



Militant photos by Suzanne Haig

Clockwise from left: Irene Abbott, Seattle NOW delegate and member of International Association of Machinists, at election hearing; Dorothy Height, National Council of Negro Women; NOW President Eleanor Smeal; opening of conference in San Antonio.

Affirmative action in NOW

In an action of significant importance for the women's movement, the National Organization for Women at its San Antonio conference passed a resolution on affirmative action in the selection of its national leadership.

The 672 delegates amended NOW's constitution to increase the size of its national board by nine members and to require each of its regions to elect at least one person of the oppressed nationalities to that body.

By taking such a step on a national level NOW is putting muscle behind its commitment to build a multinational women's rights organization that can mount a successful fight against all forms of discrimination.

In explaining the reasoning be-

hind this proposal, Susan Brown, in an article from the August 1980 *Pennsylvania NOW Times*, which was circulated at the conference, wrote:

"Can we afford to let nature take its course, raise our own consciousness on racism, and hope for the best without an affirmative action plan? That is a risk we are not willing to take.

"We must keep in mind that this bylaws proposal was not designed primarily to 'help' persons of color. It was initiated to help the whole organization become more complete and diverse, with the capacity to understand and reach out to people of every shade and background. This cannot be postponed until some more perfect time. It is something we must do now."

—S.H.

and carrying out economic policies that have put millions out of work.

Will he act differently if elected again?

What is needed is to get out of the framework of the two ruling parties and look in the alternative direction, away from the politicians who represent our enemies and toward our allies in the labor movement. A labor party, based on the unions, would have our interests at heart and the power to effect change.

The discussion on election strategy was a valuable beginning. Much will be learned over the coming months, regardless of who is elected.

Women and the draft

NOW's position on the draft was on the minds of many at the conference, which took place in the midst of a shooting war between Iraq and Iran, and U.S. threats to intervene. Many wanted to reverse the position taken by the NOW board in February. It stated opposition to registration and the draft for both sexes, but advocated including women if these are reimposed on men. People were so concerned that more than 400 signatures were gathered on petitions to ensure that a resolution opposing the board's position would come before the plenary.

Such a resolution passed overwhelmingly at a special hearing on the draft, attended by seventy women, and was narrowly defeated in the plenary session. It called for NOW to "continue to oppose the registration/draft, working actively for its repeal," if these should be reinstated for any segment of society; and for NOW to state "that forceful conscription into the military is not a right" and "we do not support its extension to women, but rather we propose that the exemption women currently have . . . be extended to men."

At the special draft hearing, Deborah Jamison of New Jersey NOW explained the resolution's origin. It evolved out of discussions held by New Jersey NOW chapters, she said, following Carter's call for including women in the draft and the NOW board's written statement. The resolution was discussed and passed by the New Jersey State Conference and the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference.

Two other positions were presented at the hearing. Virginia Watkins, from the NOW National Board, called for affirming the board's position. A member from San Diego County called for NOW to "strongly connect ERA with the draft." NOW should state, she said, "if there is going to be a draft, we won't go unless we have the ERA."

No trade-off

A number of people spoke in favor of the proposal to reverse the NOW board's position and against a trade-off of the draft for ERA. A young woman from Houston, Texas, said because of medical reasons her three brothers weren't eligible for the draft—but she was.

"But I've got news for them," she said. "I'm not going over there and fighting. If they say we'll pass ERA, I've got news for them. I'm not going. Our stand should be 'Hell no, we won't go.'"

Chris Ihlenfeld from Milwaukee NOW explained that the Wisconsin State Conference passed a resolution that "feminists had the duty to prevent men from being drafted rather than including ourselves 'in something we don't believe in.'" The Milwaukee chapter, she said, handed out copies of this resolution at post offices during registration in July.

Carol King, a board member from Michigan NOW, said, "I think that one of the things we always say when we debate the ERA is that it will not abolish all these laws. The ones that are good will be extended to men, the ones that are bad will be tossed out." She said that this position did not diminish our concern for the problems of discrimination and oppression that women face in the military and suggested a special committee be set for

this.

One woman disagreed with those "who criticize for fear we are going too far on the draft—away from the main stream. What worries me is when a group that has 100,000 radical feminists starts worrying about our popularity and what we can sell in the state legislatures."

During the plenary discussion, time was not allowed to clarify incorrect and dangerous ideas on the draft: that ERA means equal responsibility, that keeping the board's position will help win ERA, or that women need a strong military.

However, the near-tie vote—coming late Sunday when many delegates had left—showed growing opposition to the board's position and the need for more clarification on the issue.

There will be opportunities for further discussion and for NOW to participate in antidraft and antiwar activities.

Fight against sexism & racism

In addition to steps forward on affirmative action for the NOW leadership (see box), the conference stressed the interconnection between the struggles against sexism and racism.

In her introduction to keynote speaker Dorothy Height, national president of the National Council of Negro Women, Eleanor Smeal reaffirmed that "The constant addressing of the issues of discrimination is a pledge and a trust that the National Organization for Women has made from the day that it began.

"You cannot address sexism without addressing racism," she told a cheering crowd.

Height echoed this theme.

"The enemies out there have learned to divide us. I think all of us have to learn not to fight each other over the crumbs or small pieces of the pie but to ask for a bigger pie."

She said she was glad to see NOW was working on affirmative action. "We need to be there together to share in decisions so that we can also be there to protect not vested interests but broader interests which will move this country toward equality and justice."

The conference—taking place with three more states still needed to ratify the ERA—reaffirmed the campaign for the ERA as NOW's central priority and called for a mobilization until the June 1982 deadline.

While the ERA resolution called for focusing on the national and local elections in November, it also included starting "at least three major state ratification projects the size of the Illinois campaign and larger—simultaneously."

These projects, to begin immediately after the elections, will offer important opportunities to strengthen NOW's ties with the labor and civil rights movements.

The plenary passed a resolution to target the Human Life Amendment, a right-wing operation to prohibit all abortions.

Despite the blows to women's rights by the Carter administration and the ideological offensive spearheaded by the right wing, the women's movement has not been driven back. On the contrary, there is a fighting spirit afoot, a growing recognition of the class nature of the attacks on women's rights, and a new discussion unfolding on political alternatives to the narrow confines of capitalist party politics.

The discussion and debate at the conference reaffirmed this. The militancy of the NOW membership there reflects the fact that support for the women's rights movement has grown in geometric proportions in the 1970's. Now, in the 1980's the women's, labor, and civil rights movements are beginning to organize together in recognition of common enemies and common goals.

In the coming months, NOW members will grapple with the same issues raised at the conference and continue to learn from the fight how the movement for equality can best go forward.

Unity, militancy mark L.A. socialist solidarity rally

By Rebecca Finch

LOS ANGELES—"Before the revolution, the Sandinistas were persecuted, outlawed, illegal," said Ramón Díaz, head of the Comité Democrático de Nuevo Nicaragua.

"Anyone who belongs to the Frente Sandinista was supposed to be a criminal. But our revolution was victorious and will go on being victorious because we are with the people, the poor people.

"So, we wanted to tell you, no matter who comes here to attack you, no matter who comes here to tell you to stop building the revolutionary movement in the United States, don't be afraid, just the opposite. Say, 'Nobody will stop us, because we in the Socialist Workers Party are with the people and we will be victorious.'"

It was an inspiring demonstration of solidarity voiced at a rally here October 11 to demand the arrest, prosecution, and conviction of those responsible for the September 23 attempted

bombing of the Socialist Workers election campaign offices.

The participants also demanded that the Socialist Workers Party and the Communist Party, whose offices were bombed on September 20, be immediately placed on the November ballot. California Gov. Edmund Brown has refused ballot status to both parties.

In addition to Díaz, who is working to set up a Casa Nicaragua here in Los Angeles, José Calato, a leader of the Farabundo Martí Solidarity Bloc in the United States, also spoke at the rally.

"Some days ago the office of the Socialist Workers Party was the object of an attempted cowardly attack that we all condemn," said Calato.

"This attack confirms the need for closeness and fraternal solidarity between our organizations so that a united bloc can be formed to confront future attacks from the class enemy in this country."

Bernie Sapiro, director of the Printing Specialty and Paper Products Union, said, "The labor movement understands that this is an attack on them also."

He illustrated this with an account of labor spying in Monrovia, California, where a company hired a private detective agency to sabotage organizing efforts by the Printing Specialties Union.

Mark Friedman, SWP candidate for Congress in the Forty-third District, also spoke. Friedman is running against Democratic Party candidate Thomas Metzger, a Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan.

Other speakers included Ben Pennington, a national board member of the National Alliance Against Racism



Militant/Mark Satinoff

MARK FRIEDMAN

How to vote for the SWP

By Holbrook Mahn

In many of the states where the Socialist Workers Party will be on the ballot, Clifton DeBerry's name will appear as a stand-in for the SWP presidential candidate Andrew Pulley. DeBerry is a long-time leader of the SWP and a member of its National Committee.

Andrew Pulley is twenty-nine years old, making him ineligible to serve as president under the U.S. Constitution. Since state officials have attempted to use this discriminatory law to rule socialist candidates off the ballot, DeBerry's name has been substituted.

DeBerry, who is fifty-five years old, was the first Black person to run for president of the United States when he was nominated by the SWP in 1964.

He is the kind of fighter who has inspired rebels like Andrew Pulley to join the Socialist Workers Party. Like Pulley, he was born in Mississippi. He became active in politics in 1942, helping to organize unions in the South. Later he became active in the civil rights movement, helping to build support for the 1955-56 Montgomery bus boycott.

In 1964, following Malcolm X's break with the Nation of Islam,



Militant/Walter Lippmann

CLIFTON DE BERRY

DeBerry collaborated closely with Malcolm.

During his campaign for president in 1964, against Goldwater and Johnson, DeBerry spoke out against U.S. involvement in Vietnam. He exposed Johnson—who was running as a peace candidate—as the war monger he was. DeBerry warned that the U.S. was heading for a major escalation of the war and urged people to organize demonstrations against the war.

DeBerry is currently working as an industrial painter in northern California.

and Political Repression; Morris Kight, a longtime fighter for gay rights; Linda Valentino, co-chairperson of the Southern California Citizens Committee; Dan Mayfield, National Lawyers Guild; and Jan Tucker, Peace and Freedom Party.

A wide range of messages were also read, including those from Floyd Walls, a campaign director for the

California petitioning effort of Communist Party presidential candidate Gus Hall; David Crippen, executive director of the Social Service Employees International Union Local 535; Paul Schrade, former regional director of United Auto Workers Region 6; and Ramona Ripston, director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California.

Union fighter: 'Your campaign an inspiration'

By Duncan Williams

So far, \$42,333 has been received in the fall 1980 Socialist Workers campaign fund drive. A special effort by all campaign committees and supporters is required to meet the \$75,000 goal by the November 4 election.

Most of this money has been paid on pledges made at a national campaign rally in Oberlin, Ohio, in August. Payment of the remaining pledges—roughly \$20,000—will account for more than half of the balance to be collected.

Pledges made at local rallies on the Andrew Pulley and Matilde Zimmermann tours account for another large portion of the balance.

But in many ways, the most significant contributions are coming from co-workers, *Militant* readers, and other new supporters of the campaign.

One municipal worker in Florida has regularly sent in five-dollar contributions toward an eighty-dollar pledge. He writes:

"... I am in touch with the Miami local and will be going down to help with campaigning. At present I am chairman of the election committee of the Amalgamated Transit Union in the drive to organize my employer, the City of Gulfport. Yesterday I was demoted out of sanitation division into the laborers and street maintenance division, taking a \$.36 an hour cut in pay. I wonder if it is because I am chairman of the committee??? The cut

drops me to \$3.72 per hour, which is disgraceful and below the federal poverty level! All I can say to that is *Union Now!!!*

"I will keep on sending the \$ unless the city cuts me further or fires me outright. Let me tell you that your campaign is an inspiration to those of us who lack the benefits of unionization.

"Keep up the excellent work." Another supporter who dug deep into a small income writes from West Reading, Pennsylvania: "Enclosed find check for \$20 for campaign purposes. I am over 93 years old so will take no part in the campaign. Inflation has reduced the buying power of my Social Security check so I have less than my income in Social Security by a large amount. . . ."

Often, the national campaign office receives letters that help measure the effect of the campaign among working people. A woman from Virginia writes:

"To Andrew Pulley & Matilde Zimmermann,

"Right on! I'm with you all the way. I was reading your pamphlet on 'How to Fight Racism & Win.' I feel the same way. . . ."

"Let [Black people] know that the KKK is trying to put them back to 1900 where our mothers and fathers were. I will not go back to the old ways and I'm sure there are a lot of people who feel this way. . . . I feel that the KKK

organization should be put out of focus for good. Damn what they want—nobody's a slave. . . ."

"I'm only voicing my thoughts."

Of course, not all the letters that come in are friendly. Some simply



Carter doesn't like Pulley's opposition to 'Solid Shield 80.'

request information, and others voice disagreement, like this one, which is signed "John A. Goldsmith, Special Assistant":

"Dear Mr. Pulley:

"Thank you for your letter to Presi-

dent Carter wherein you 'demand that [he] cancel "Solid Shield 80" and return the Guantanamo Naval Base to the Cuban people . . .'

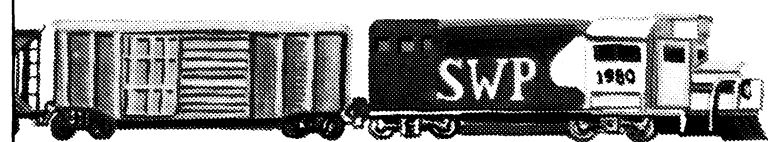
"... it appears you are unaware that SOLID SHIELD 80 was not a one-time event, specifically scheduled 'as a clear and direct threat against the peoples of Latin America,' as you state. SOLID SHIELD 80 was 18th in a series of annual Joint Service Exercises."

Well, Andrew Pulley actually is aware that Solid Shield 80, the U.S.-organized war maneuvers in the Caribbean last spring, was not a one-time event as Mr. Goldsmith (who specially assists the Assistant Secretary of Defense) points out. It was part of a twenty-year record of hostility to the Cuban revolution and threats and bullying of the peoples of Latin America.

That's why one of the main points in the Socialist Workers Party program is for an end to this hostility, for an end to the blockade against Cuba, for the return of the Guantánamo base to Cuba, and for the establishment of normal diplomatic relations. And opposition to all future "Joint Services Exercises," for that matter.

If you support the SWP campaign, and would like to help us reach more new supporters, contribute as generously as you can by filling out the coupon below.

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'Poor people make the rich ones richer'

Vermont workers, students welcome Pulley

By Andy Rose

BURLINGTON, Vt.—This time of year the Vermont woods are ablaze with gold and crimson. To the tourists who flock here, enraptured with the changing leaves and clean, crisp air, it can seem like paradise.

To the working people who live here, the paradise is flawed. Flawed by low wages, union-busting, nuclear power, and soaring prices for heating oil and other necessities, and the threat of the draft and war.

On a whirlwind one-day campaign tour through the state, Andrew Pulley found plenty of evidence that the capitalist crisis—and interest in socialist answers to it—reaches here like every other corner of the country.

Picket line visit

The Socialist Workers presidential candidate arrived in Vermont early on October 1. His first stop was a United Auto Workers picket line in Randolph, where strikers at a plastics factory are battling for their first union contract. They face stonewalling by the employer, harassment from the cops, and biased coverage by the local news media.

Pulley got a warm response as he talked of the need for solidarity and how the union movement can be strengthened.

"We need a labor party, based on the unions, so the majority of people can get some real representation," he said.

You won't find Carter, Reagan, or Anderson out joining picket lines or supporting workers in any conflict

with the corporations, Pulley said, as strikers nodded in agreement.

"Workers ought to be calling the shots. After all, we keep the country running," Pulley declared.

"If we all stopped working, there wouldn't be anything going on," agreed Mildred Beauchemin, a union stalwart. "It's like my husband always said, it's the poor people that makes the rich ones richer."

Stop 'right to work'

Strikers welcomed Pulley's stand for abolition of so-called right to work laws, which infringe on workers' right to organize and strike.

"Right to work" forces nationally have targeted Vermont, Maine, and New Hampshire as northern states where they will try to push through the anti-union statutes.

The flight of industry from New England for decades weakened unions and depressed wages to the point that Vermont now ranks forty-fourth in the country in per capita income—below such southern states as North Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia, and Virginia.

Now industry is moving back in, especially electronics and other light manufacturing and assembly plants. IBM, for example, has a nonunion plant of 7,000 near Burlington. But the corporations intend the "reindustrialization" of Vermont to be on their terms—nonunion and low wages. That's why they want "right to work."

Last winter the Vermont legislature held hearings on "right to work." Unions from around the state turned



Militant/Andy Rose

Pulley with strikers on UAW picket line in Randolph, Vermont

out 1,000 members to attend. This spirited show of opposition helped defeat the measure. But the corporations and right-wingers intend to keep trying.

"If we had labor representatives in office instead of Democrats and Republicans, we could make sure they wouldn't vote to break our unions," Pulley told the UAW strikers.

Treated as human

From Randolph, Pulley went to the state capital of Montpelier for a news conference, which was well attended by local press. He cited the Randolph strike as typical of what is happening to workers, who are being "pushed up against the wall by the economic crisis and are beginning to fight back."

Pulley quoted a striker who said they were fighting to be treated "like human beings."

That is the goal of the Socialist Workers Party, Pulley said—a world where all working people will be treated like human beings. "And for that to happen, workers will have to take political power away from the billionaires and reorganize society from top to bottom."

After the news conference Pulley continued on to Burlington, Vermont's largest city, for interviews that afternoon on WEZF television and WJOI and WVMT radio.

In the evening he spoke to an enthusiastic audience of forty at the University of Vermont here. His talk centered on the Iraq-Iran war and the socialist program for solving the economic crisis.

Many of those present stayed after Pulley's talk for a lengthy discussion that ranged from the gains of Cuba and Grenada to whether socialism is bureaucratic to how a nuclear holocaust can be averted.

Sixteen students signed up for more information on the Young Socialist Alliance and five bought subscriptions to the *Militant*.

Campaigner for socialism

This successful one-day tour was organized in a state where there is no branch of the Socialist Workers Party, but an energetic group of campaign supporters. Last July they petitioned to put the SWP ticket on the ballot, getting some 1,800 signatures around the state.

One of the most active campaigners for Pulley and Zimmermann is Valerie Eckart, past president of the Central Vermont chapter of the National Organization for Women. A mother of two, Eckart is a well-known fighter for the Equal Rights Amendment and abortion rights. She helped lead a contingent of 100 from Vermont to the July 9, 1978, march on Washington for the ERA.

Another SWP campaigner is Jon Flanders, a Burlington bus driver who

was active in a successful organizing drive by Teamsters Local 597.

Last November, at the height of efforts to whip up anti-Iranian hysteria around the U.S. hostages, Flanders got out a leaflet on why the shah should be sent back. He and others initiated a Committee to Prevent War in Iran, which held a demonstration of fifty at the federal building here that got statewide news coverage. They also appeared on several radio talk shows explaining the truth about Iran.

The SWP campaign supporters have also been leading participants in the antidraft and antinuclear movements in Vermont. They helped organize picketing of post offices in both Burlington and Montpelier during draft registration.

Debs in Vermont

Pulley's campus meeting here was chaired by Bernard Sanders, a well-known figure in Vermont politics. In 1976 Sanders won 6 percent of the vote for governor as candidate of the Liberty Union Party.

The Liberty Union Party, he explained to Pulley, had drawn together antiwar activists, feminists, and other fighters for social change in Vermont. It also won support from a half-dozen unions, he said, including leaders of building trades unions that have come under heavy fire from the government and employers.

Last year Sanders produced a TV program on Eugene V. Debs, the famed turn-of-the-century union leader and revolutionary socialist. When local public TV refused to air the documentary, claiming it was "one-sided," Sanders and others organized protests. They succeeded not only in getting the Debs program broadcast twice, but also in winning the right to produce five hours of programming on social problems in Vermont and a three-hour "town meeting" show on the role of public TV.

This year the Liberty Union Party is backing David McReynolds for president on the Socialist Party ticket, but Sanders has become a Pulley-Zimmermann supporter.

Leaving Vermont the day after the tour, we picked up a copy of the *Burlington Free Press* at the airport. The front page of the local news section featured a big photo of Pulley and the Randolph UAW pickets, described in the caption as "willing listeners" to the socialist candidate.

Our short stay left us more convinced than ever that, far from the country moving to the right, the real situation is just as the *Free Press* article quoted Pulley:

"What is really happening is that the country is becoming polarized. On the right is the government, the corporation owners and the Ku Klux Klan, and on the other side is working people. In the end, the worker is going to come out on top."

Waterbury strike: 'It's about time this place was changed'

RANDOLPH, Vt.—In this small town in central Vermont, fifty-eight strikers are battling for their rights against a powerful corporate union-buster.

"They figure they're going to starve us out," one picket told Andrew Pulley. The Socialist Workers presidential candidate visited the strikers October 1 to express his solidarity.

Out for more than 100 days already, these workers were determined not to go back without the protection of a union contract.

The Waterbury Companies plant here manufactures various plastic parts, such as boxes and razor handles. Wages are rock-bottom, starting at the federal minimum wage. After ten years, a skilled toolmaker makes \$5.91 an hour.

The pace of work is grueling. "They just turn the presses up as fast as they will go. You run all the time," one woman told us.

Breaks come at the company's discretion, if at all.

Workers often find it necessary to put in six or seven days a week just to make ends meet.

These conditions impelled the workers—most of whom are women, many in their forties and fifties—to organize a union. On September 21, 1979, they voted for representation by United Auto Workers Local 2133.

The union asked for wages and conditions more comparable to those in Waterbury's plants in Connecticut, which are unionized. The company refused.

Last June 16 the strike began.

Hand-lettered picket signs tell the story:

"Waterbury wants more work and less pay."

"We believe in dignity and unity—we are sticking together."

Virginia Carter, a member of the

union negotiating committee, said talks are now at a "stalemate."

Waterbury has hired strikebreakers and has production going at perhaps 50 percent of normal, she estimated.

As we talked, two cops stood at the plant entrance, waving scabs through. Police have been "biased" against the strikers, Carter said. Other pickets angrily showed photos of the local sheriff chatting with the company president.

The strikers are not just up against a backward local union-hater. Waterbury is owned, they said, by Talley Industries. Talley, which is on *Fortune* magazine's list of the 500 largest industrial corporations, reported profits of more than \$10 million last year.

"It's not fair, it's not right," Mildred Beauchemin told Pulley. When she was hired at Waterbury last December, with nine years' experience at this type of work, she was told she would make \$3.65 an hour. In fact, she was paid only \$2.90.

"After I saw my first check I was going to just walk out." But she heard a union was being organized, "so I decided to stay and help get it in."

Beauchemin said Vermont wages are so low she has had to leave the state twice "to survive, just to make a living. But now it's about time I stood up and fought for a better living for the younger generation. We don't want our children to have to work like this."

As we were saying good-bye, Arlene Comette, who has worked thirteen years at Waterbury, summed up the feelings of many. "It's about time this place was changed," she said. "Instead of being a number, they should treat us like human beings."

—A.R.

Machinists' shift to left reflects

By Fred Feldman

The new mood of opposition to big business and its government that is spreading among American working people found expression at the convention of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. Held September 2-10 in Cincinnati, it was attended by some 2,500 delegates and observers. The sessions were chaired by William Winpisinger, International president of the IAM.

The IAM has 980,000 members. These include more than 200,000 in the aerospace industry, 85,000 airline employees, 80,000 auto workers, thousands of tool-and-die makers and other machinists such as airline employees, brewery workers, rail workers, and others.

Although IAM members have not experienced layoffs and plant closings on the massive scale of steel and auto union members, the IAM's highly skilled machinists face growing job insecurity due to robotization of machine-tool production and the spread of non-union shops.

Tens of thousands of IAM members have experienced temporary or long-term layoffs and plant closings over the past year.

Inflation has had a devastating effect on the living standards of IAM members, as on all other working people.

And their lives are haunted by the threat to reinstitute the draft, war moves, and the slashes in public services to finance an ever-swelling war budget.

The response to these issues at the Machinists' convention was markedly different from that given by the United Auto Workers and United Steelworkers conventions held earlier this summer.

A different note

At those gatherings the officialdom staked everything on closer collaboration with the government and the bosses. The desire of the union ranks for stronger resistance to the bosses' offensive found little voice.

This convention sounded a different note—both in the keynote speech by Winpisinger and in the resolutions adopted.

They were designed to provide the IAM with a more militant image, one more appealing to the working people who have become disgusted with the stand-patism of the labor leadership as a whole.

The forms of democracy were followed carefully at the convention, with speakers for and against most proposals being heard. Winpisinger's stance was one of trying to win support for his policies from all sectors of the union leadership.

There was little sign of opposition caucuses or currents.

Support for the union's leftward shift cut across craft and industry lines, finding backers among tool-and-die and aerospace locals alike.

Corporate offensive

Winpisinger's opening speech set the tone for the convention. He said he spoke for the executive council as a whole.

Decrying the corporate offensive against labor, he described the union movement as "finding ourselves backs to the wall, making a defensive goal-line stand, facing bargaining table take-away drives and union-busting power plays."

He described "unemployment at 8 percent and reaching for 10. Ten million idle minds and hands, marking time in a standing army of unemployed. Double-digit inflation. Any price level is inflationary when you're out of work."

He jabbed at the oil companies: "Big oil has created a vicious circle," he declared.

"It controls all information and facts relative to supplies.

"It screams shortage—demands



more money to produce more. Shuts off the valve, puts us in gas lines, and freezes us out in the winter.

"Government caves in and gives them what they want. . . .

"Big oil is pig oil.

"They own uranium, coal, and natural gas, and now they're going to hang a meter on the sun.

"And they've milked every last penny from OPEC imports and brought us to the brink of war," he said.

"The causes of economic decline and stagnation in Canada and the U.S.," he concluded, "are locked in the structure of corporate America and corporate Canada.

"Government doesn't control them, they control government. The Carter and Trudeau administrations are corporate caretakers and the handmaidens of corporate strategy and tactics."

Referring to the appeals of ailing corporations like Chrysler for union support to federal bailouts, he declared "If our employers want us to get socialism for them, then we have to make it clear we want democratic socialism for ourselves."

How to combat this employer-government drive against labor was the main topic of discussion when the 1980 elections were taken up.

No to Carter, Reagan

Like the leadership of a number of AFL-CIO unions and the United Auto Workers, the IAM Executive Board actively supported Kennedy in the Democratic presidential primaries.

When Carter sewed up the nomination, almost all the top union leaders opted for helping him get reelected, in line with their traditional commitment to the Democratic Party.

But Winpisinger and about eighty-five other IAM delegates walked out of the Democratic convention in August. Winpisinger also cast the sole "no" vote when the AFL-CIO Executive Council gave its support to Carter.

At the IAM convention, the big guns were rolled out to try to turn this position around.

AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland chided the leadership about the importance of sticking with Carter.

Labor Secretary Ray Marshall tried to portray Carter as a consistent friend of the working man and woman.

And Sen. Edward Kennedy gave a carefully prepared and passionately delivered address on the need to "stop Reagan."

Kirkland and Marshall got cool, polite receptions. Kennedy received standing ovations, and a demonstra-

tion replete with "Kennedy in '84" placards.

But the high-powered effort to bring the Machinists into line behind Carter failed.

Position upheld

As soon as Kennedy left the platform, delegate George Hyatt moved "that we fully support the position taken by the International officers and the MNPL [Machinists Non-Partisan League] Planning Committee, that we not endorse a presidential candidate, and that we support the Democratic Platform, which is the key to saving the Congress in November."

The discussion gave an inkling of the anger that has been building up among union members because of the antilabor policies of the Carter administration—and the frustration of union officials who have nothing to show the membership for years of lobbying and horse-trading among "friends of labor" in the Democratic Party.

Carter, declared Patrick O'Brien, "has kept none of the promises that were made from the podium of our previous convention when we had him here, and he suckered us into an endorsement.

"Since that time, he has not shown in any way that he has any feeling, any sympathy for the working people. His record of do nothing for working people is well known. . . .

"I don't think that I have to run down the complete list. We know Carter's position on Social Security. We know Carter's position on that oil ripoff that has been perpetrated. . . .

"I ask you whether the fighting Machinists become chicken Machinists and puppy dogs by licking the hand of the man in the White House who has been pumping our ears for the last four years."

Adopted by a substantial majority, this motion means that funds of the Machinists Non-Partisan League will not be given to the Carter campaign, and that the Machinists' press will not be urging a vote for the Democratic presidential ticket.

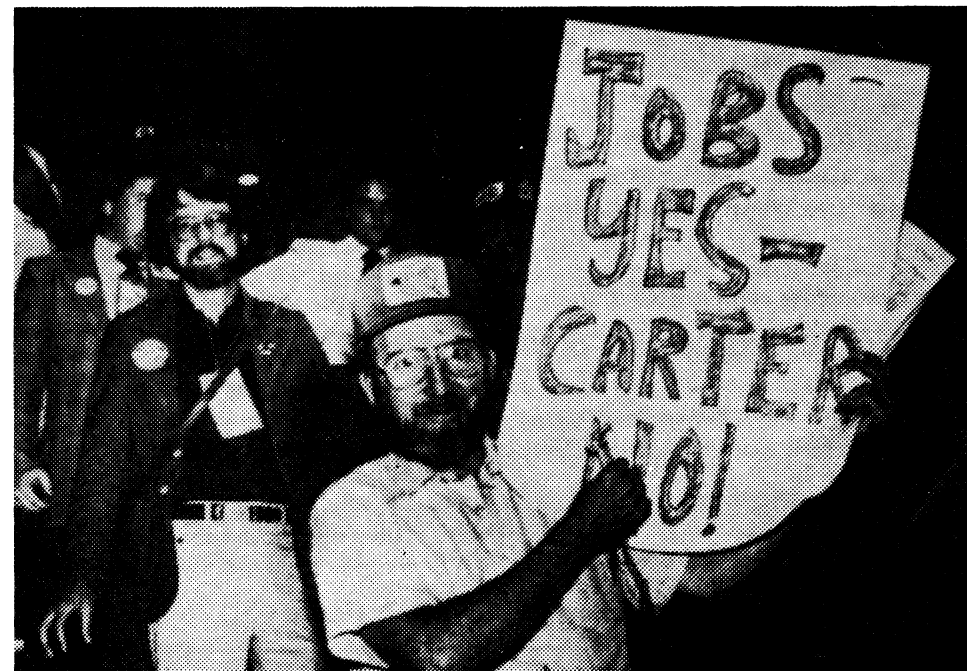
Nor will local officials be obliged to talk up Carter to workers who know better.

The union's refusal to carry water for Carter in 1980 represents a departure from the course set by the union bureaucracy over more than four decades. That's why it was nearly blacked out in the capitalist media. And it is viewed as dangerously heretical by the top leadership of the AFL-CIO.

That's why the September 13 *AFL-CIO News* presented a report on the Machinists' convention that noted Kennedy's appearance but suppressed any mention of the convention's stand on the elections.

Labor's political crisis

Rejection of Carter, Reagan, and Anderson placed the IAM at the center of the growing discussion of labor's political orientation. It reflected the feelings of IAM members—including the many who will vote for one or another capitalist candidate in the end—that none of the Republican and Democratic candidates has done any-



IAM delegates walk out of Democratic convention.

new mood of workers



Machinist

thing but attack the interests of working people.

But what to do instead of endorsing Carter?

As far as political action between now and November, the leadership had little new to offer.

Winpisinger said, "It is critical that we save our Democratic Congress." He proclaimed himself a "real Democrat" in contrast to Carter. And the ovation given to Kennedy indicated hopes that a Kennedy candidacy might provide an avenue for selling the Democrats to workers in 1984.

Michael Harrington, head of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, addressed the convention. He proposed that the 1982 Democratic midterm convention be a major focus of IAM efforts. Neither Winpisinger nor any IAM delegate mentioned this, however. (Winpisinger is a vice-chairperson of the DSOC.)

Winpisinger's call for support to Democrats in Congress faced a formidable obstacle: their record. IAM Legislative Director Jerry Thompson painted a grim picture of labor's inability to get even a portion of its legislative program adopted by "our Democratic Congress."

Canadian example

It isn't surprising therefore that the idea of forming a labor party got a sympathetic hearing at the convention.

Dennis McDermott, president of the Canadian Labor Congress, got a standing ovation when he described the strengthening of the Canadian labor movement through the founding of the New Democratic Party, Canada's version of a labor party, in 1961.

"I submit to you that when you have got two parties, that are almost identical in philosophy and outlook, then that ain't a hell of a lot different than having a one-party system," he said.

"It's like a community of mice who get to vote for a black cat one year, and a spotted cat the next year, and a white cat the year after.

"It's like chickens getting to vote for Colonel Sanders or Kentucky Fry."

Winpisinger also took note of the example set by the Canadian unions in his opening speech: "When we look at the Canadian Labor Congress, we find it, too, operating in a hostile and indifferent environment. But rather than continuing to deceive itself about its relationship with the employers and the government, it had the good sense, it seems to us, to mount an offensive

by helping to form a prolabor political party—the New Democratic Party, that is giving the Trudeau government and the Conservative Party a full measure of debate and trade union sentiment."

Labor party

Several locals submitted resolutions in favor of a labor party. This is not unusual at union conventions. At the United Auto Workers convention, for instance, there were several labor



WILLIAM WINPISINGER

party resolutions submitted that never reached the convention floor.

But the resolutions committee at the IAM convention didn't brush off the labor party proposal.

Instead, a resolution by Local 707 calling for immediate initiation of a labor party was presented to the delegates. The resolutions committee proposed that the resolution be rewritten and adopted. It was approved by an overwhelming voice vote, including those who had proposed the original wording.

The final resolution mandated "that the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers join with other progressive and liberal groups in our society to determine the extent to which grass roots support might be developed for an independent pro-labor party dedicated to the principles of social democracy."

The adoption of such a resolution by a major national industrial union marks a big step forward for the labor party discussion that has been spreading in the union movement.

Unlike talk about "our Democratic Congress," this points toward how labor can resolve its political crisis in the interests of working people.

The spread of sentiment and action against draft registration and nuclear power has made a deep impact on the IAM.

Winpisinger and George Hardy, then president of the Service Employees International Union, cast the only votes against the AFL-CIO Executive Council's endorsement of Carter's call for draft registration.

Later, the Machinists made their offices available to organizers of the March 22 antidraft march in Washington, D.C.

At the convention, Winpisinger declared: "We are told our kids are being registered for the military draft in case we have to defend our vital interests in the Persian Gulf. . . .

"I say let big oil fight its own damned war."

Winpisinger's stand on the draft challenged Carter's militarization drive, as did his warnings against war moves in the Persian Gulf.

But the convention also adopted a resolution condemning Iran for holding fifty-two U.S. diplomatic personnel as hostages. This resolution—adopted unanimously and without discussion—fell into the trap set by those who are attempting to win popular support for U.S. military intervention in the Persian Gulf region.

The resolution does this by failing to take into account the causes of the Iranian people's action. It takes no note of the U.S. role in imposing the shah on Iran, building up his secret police and army, backing him to the bitter end, using its diplomatic personnel as spies against Iran, and plotting against the new Iranian government.

Nukes

In 1976, the IAM—like other AFL-CIO unions—was on record in support of nuclear power. Since then, its public posture has shifted steadily toward opposition to the deadly power plants.

The IAM was one of the sponsors of the Labor Conference on Safe Energy and Full Employment held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 10-12.

Winpisinger's opening address included a sharp attack on the use of nuclear power. "Nuclear power means techno-terrorism and we don't need it," he declared.

The resolution, adopted on the recommendation of the Convention's

Energy Research and Development Committee, stopped short of retracting the 1976 resolution, however. It denounced the lax safety procedures followed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, pointed to the high cancer rates among workers at nuclear power plants, and conceded "there is no known, proved, safe, or reliable way to dispose of radioactive wastes, whether those wastes result from military production or nuclear power generation."

Its conclusion called for the development of "new sources of energy," while nuclear energy is "phased out."

There was no reference, in the report or in Winpisinger's speech, to the fact that an alternative energy source already exists in massive quantities that could be put to work while other sources were developed—coal.

Nonetheless, the Machinists' stand represents an advance from its earlier positions, a reflection of the growing fear of and opposition to nuclear power plants among working people and IAM members in particular.

These stands on the draft and nuclear power open up big new opportunities to organize support in the labor movement for the struggles against these evils.

Civil rights

For decades a racially segregated, craft-oriented union, the IAM has changed under the pressure of its increasing industrial component, the growing number of Black and women members—now between 15 and 20 percent of the total—and the growing need for unity in the face of the bosses' offensive.

The 1976 Machinists' convention voted for the first time to establish a civil rights department.

The 1980 convention heard the first report from the department's director Clark Johnson. His stress was the need to establish civil rights committees in all locals.

A number of resolutions from local lodges sought to strengthen the IAM's overall position on affirmative action and civil rights.

The IAM had earlier come out in opposition to the *Weber* suit, which attempted to overturn an affirmative-action program including quotas that had been won by the United Steelworkers union at Kaiser Aluminum in Gramercy, Louisiana.

The resolutions committee, which consistently reflected the views of the IAM top leadership, combined them in a resolution that endorsed affirmative action both on the job and in the union itself, but mandated no specific policies such as quotas.

No mention was made at the convention of the need to counteract discriminatory layoffs, which are devastating the positions won by women and oppressed nationalities in industry.

The strongest advance in the area of civil rights at the convention was scored in the area of women's equality. The IAM affirmed its support to the Coalition of Labor Union Women and to the Equal Rights Amendment.

And it voted that the executive council should call a meeting of the union's field staff, women business representatives, "and women from selected lodges" to develop "a program on 'Women in the IAMAW'."

It also urged educational activities throughout the union on the role of women workers.

Gestures of solidarity

Two expressions of union solidarity stirred enthusiasm at the convention. On September 4 Edward Asner, star of TV's *Lou Grant* and a leader of the actors' strike, spoke. He recently narrated a film that the IAM hopes to use in its organizing efforts. Winpisinger presented him with an IAM donation of \$10,000 for the strikers, and another

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...IAM

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\$3,000 was collected by passing the hat among the delegates.

One reason Cincinnati was selected for the convention is that it is the site of some battles between the IAM and the growing number of employers who are trying to make their machine shops non-union.

On September 8, about 1,000 delegates were bused to the gates of Wolf Machinery near Cincinnati, where 100 IAM members have been on strike against a union busting employer for fourteen months. They disobeyed a court order limiting the number of pickets to three.

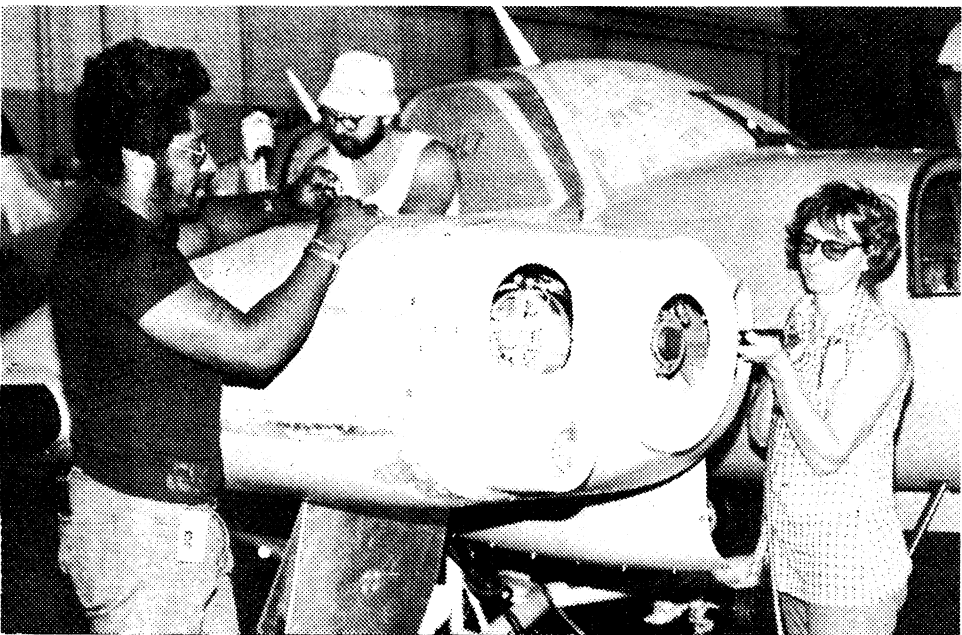
Why the shift?

In sizing up the convention, some left currents have drawn the conclusion that Winpisinger has stepped out far in advance of the rank and file.

"Despite the efforts to give socialism a new meaning to IAM members," reported David Moberg in the September 17 *In These Times*, "Winpisinger has a lot of prior miseducation to fight."

The Communist Party's *Daily World* appeared to agree with the words of Allen Levie, a delegate quoted by correspondent Tim Wheeler September 9.

"The biggest job we are going to have as delegates," Levie said, "is getting back to the rank and file members with these advanced positions."



Aerospace workers. Machinists' changing composition has influenced views on civil rights, other issues.

Winpisinger knows that he is not a missionary bringing his "advanced positions" to a benighted conservative membership.

In his opening address he portrayed some of the problems that the leadership's shift to the left is intended to solve. Speaking of the crisis faced by the union in 1976, he stated:

"We had experienced no-growth membership, a decline, in fact, had set in over the previous seven years. . . .

"Our communications gap between the Grand Lodge and the membership was widening.

"Our communications gap between the IAM and the community at large was even wider. . . .

"Our organizational image, along with that of all labor, was sagging in terms of the public's perception of our goals and aspirations."

What he is talking about is the "perception" of the union leadership as conservative and self-serving, an image shared by millions of working people—union members and non-members alike.

Winpisinger described the IAM's new, more militant image as designed to "appeal to young workers, to women, to minorities, to technical, to white collar, pink collar, blue collar, and to service workers and government employees."

More than other top union leaders, Winpisinger is sensitive to the changes that have been occurring in the thinking and outlook of working people

under the pressure of the economic crisis, and in the wake of twenty years of struggle against the war and for civil rights for Blacks, Chicanos, and women.

Winpisinger also sees a new image for the IAM as a means of reaching out to allies who can give the labor movement more clout in dealing with the employers and government.

"We have to reach out and help finance those in our communities who have parallel concerns and interests, and who can give us auxiliary as well as front-line support. . . .

"Coalition building is absolutely and unequivocally necessary to the maintenance of our [the unions'] life-support systems in the hostile environment that envelops us today."

Winpisinger cited the IAM's role in founding the Citizen/Labor Energy Coalition and cooperation with the Americans for Democratic Action and Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee as examples.

Criticizes union leaders

Winpisinger urges the leadership of other unions to follow his example. And he made some telling criticisms of the AFL-CIO officialdom:

"Too many times on terribly important issues, we've had to look back over our shoulders to determine whether or not the balance of the trade union movement was with us. For the most part, it has not been!

"The theory of business unionism and cautious conservatism still dominates the majority of union leadership

in both the United States and Canada. There is a pessimistic reluctance to develop sufficient militancy to bite the hand that feeds, to resist job blackmail, or to exercise the power necessary to make favored politicians and government officials honest and loyal to the trade union principles and platforms on which they are elected.

"Here in the United States, too many trade union leaders appear to be more interested in breakfast at the White House than breaking bread with their own members. (Applause)

"We continue to suffer from the AFL-CIO's parochialism and timidity brought about largely by the lack of unanimity as to what labor's agenda should truly be.

"There is a dearth of leaders who will say what they mean, or more importantly, mean what they say."

Winpisinger knows that far from leaping ahead of working people, he is trying to narrow a yawning gap that has grown between workers who are becoming more rebellious and the pro-capitalist union officialdom.

Winpisinger's motivations in making this shift are not of primary importance. What is important is that some deeply felt sentiments of working people—against the employers' offensive, against the draft, against nuclear power, against the hidebound conservatism of labor leadership, and against the trap for working people represented by the capitalist two-party system—broke through at this gathering.

Italian auto workers challenge layoff plans

By Will Reissner

Eighteen million Italian workers staged a four-hour general strike on October 10 to protest a move by the giant automaker Fiat to place 22,844 workers on a three-month layoff. Fiat workers have been on strike against the plan since October 1. Their mass picket lines have blocked all shipments into and out of the factories.

The struggle of the Fiat workers against management plans to cut the work force has been going on since early September. Their fight has highlighted the biggest labor upsurge in Italy in more than a decade, as Italian workers resist attempts by the employers to make them bear the brunt of the capitalist economic crisis through increased unemployment and speedups.

Recent government figures indicate that Italian inflation is running at 17 percent. Unemployment, which stood at 1.7 million in July, is expected to rise substantially before the end of the year.

The struggle of the Fiat workers is of crucial importance to the Italian working class because Fiat is by far the largest private employer in the country.

The offensive against the auto workers and their union, the Metalworkers Federation (FLM), was publicly launched by Fiat chairman Giovanni Agnelli at a July stockholders meeting. At that meeting Agnelli outlined plans to make major cuts in the work force before the end of the year while substantially increasing productivity by forcing the auto workers to give up benefits won in previous struggles.

'Invasion' of imports?

Agnelli and other Fiat executives, echoed by the big business press, have raised the specter of being overrun by an "invasion" of Japanese imports, an argument dear to capitalist auto companies throughout the world. But Italian law limits Japanese car imports to only 1,200 per year. Fiat executives also point to the U.S. auto industry as a serious threat to the future of Italian and other European car manufacturers.

On September 8 negotiations began on a new contract between Fiat and the FLM. Management proposed laying off some 24,000 workers for 18 months, institution of a hiring freeze to further reduce the workforce through attrition, and demanded the right to reassign workers to different jobs within a plant and between different plants, which is presently restricted by the contract.

The very next day Fiat began to layoff 13,200 workers in its auto division and another 1,400 in a steelmaking division. The response of the workers was immediate and massive. Demonstrations took place at a number of plants, and on September 11 and 12, strikes took place at car factories throughout the country.

There were also daily marches of up to 10,000 auto workers.

The impact of the Polish strikes could be seen in a number of ways. Picking up a demand won by the Gdansk shipyard workers, Fiat workers called for negotiations between the company and the union to be held in public and in Turin rather than in Rome, so the workers could listen.

In addition, as in Poland, democratically organized mass meetings were held almost daily in the factories to discuss tactics for the struggle and to develop trade-union and political strategies. These meetings involved as many as 20,000 workers at a time. At

one, workers from the SEAT auto plant in Barcelona, Spain, which is partially owned by Fiat, brought solidarity greetings. At another, representatives from all the political parties were invited to speak to the 10,000 assembled workers. The representative of the Revolutionary Communist League (LCR), sister organization of the U.S. Socialist Workers Party, got a very good response. The LCR proposes a campaign for a thirty-five-hour work-week to fight unemployment.

In recognition of the crucial importance of the struggle at Fiat for the entire Italian labor movement, the Metalworkers Federation called its members out on a nationwide solidarity strike on September 25.

On the day of the strike, 100,000 workers staged a militant and spirited demonstration in the main square of Turin. Many demonstrators carried banners and placards calling for the thirty-five-hour week.

The workers won an initial, partial victory on September 27, when Fiat's management rescinded its previously announced dismissals. This move was announced two hours after the sudden fall of the six-month-old government of Premier Francesco Cossiga. Fearing a continuation of the high pitch of workers struggle at a time of political crisis, a Fiat representative announced that "out of a sense of responsibility at a difficult time in the life of the nation," all hiring and firing would be suspended until the end of the year.

But this limited victory did not last long. Two days later, on September 29, the company announced that it would place 22,844 workers on a three-month layoff. The true purpose of this layoff became clear when the list of those affected was released. On the list are a majority of the rank-and-file union activists in the plants as well as some of the union delegates.

Workers shut down Fiat

When the contents of the layoff list became known, the Metalworkers Federation called an "indefinite strike" against Fiat.

In addition to calling the indefinite strike, which began on October 1, the union resumed its blockade of all factory gates at the struck plants. It is in support of this struggle that the October 10 national general strike was called.

Negotiations have resumed between the FLM and Fiat management, but little progress is expected in the immediate future since Fiat management is deadly serious in its attempts to force big concessions from the auto workers.

The month-long struggle the Fiat workers have been waging against the attempted layoffs and "give backs" is of crucial importance to the struggles of all Italian workers. If the powerful Fiat workers suffer a defeat, the employers' offensive against the living standards and working conditions of the rest of the Italian working class will be greatly stepped up.

The struggle at Fiat is also of direct importance to auto workers throughout the capitalist world, who face similar attacks. In the United States, for example, more than 240,000 auto workers are out of work.

Italian trade-unionists have asked that international solidarity activities be undertaken in support of the Fiat struggle.

Messages of solidarity should be sent to: Federazione dei Lavoratori Metalmeccanici, CorsoUnione Sovietica 351, Torino, Italia.

From Intercontinental Press

Arab faces deportation from U.S. to Israel

By Evan Siegel

Once again Elias Ayoub, an Arab with Israeli citizenship, faces deportation. A new hearing on the attempt by the Immigration and Naturalization Service will be held in Cincinnati on October 22.



ELIAS AYOUB

The harassment of Ayoub has brought to light connections between the FBI and Mossad, the Israeli secret police.

The case of Elias Ayoub began when the Immigration and Naturalization Service failed to send a routine document filed by Ayoub to their superiors. When the time came for Ayoub to get an extension on his student status, the Cincinnati INS turned him down three months before his graduation was to have taken place.

The decision was appealed to the federal INS, which has now—in the face of protests from civil libertarians and others—remanded the case back to its Cincinnati office.

This took place against a sinister background of FBI harassment. Ayoub was visited a number of times by strangers who grilled him about his political views. The head of the Cincinnati INS asked the FBI for permission to investigate Ayoub as a "subversive." Soon after that, INS officers interrogated Ayoub about his politics. They then told the U.S. consulate in Tel Aviv that Ayoub's visa was being cancelled because he "has been identified as a strong activist in the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine."

This is a lie. Elias Ayoub is not an "activist" in any of the armed Palestinian groups. He has spoken out for victims of Israeli oppression.

As a journalist for the *Washington Star* asked on September 16, 1979: "How did the description of Ayoub as a Popular Front activist get into his file? Has the Mossad or the FBI monitored Ayoub's political activities? On what grounds was he labeled a subversive?"

Should Ayoub be deported to Israel, he could face jail on the frame-up charge of being a PFLP member.

Supporters of Ayoub's democratic right to study here will hold a picket line to support him on October 22 outside New York City's INS office at 30 Federal Plaza.

Black party conference

By Osborne Hart

The National Black Political Assembly is planning the founding convention for an independent national Black political party November 21-23 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

During the assembly's fourth convention held in New Orleans August 21-24, nearly 200 delegates adopted a resolution calling for the launching of an independent Black party.

In 1972, the first National Black Political Convention was held in Gary, Indiana, where 8,000 Black activists discussed the problems facing the Black community and the idea of independent Black political action.

The National Black Political Assembly was formed out of that convention's deliberations and has subsequently organized three conventions—Little Rock, Arkansas, in 1974; Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1976, and most recently in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Cover-up of Love Canal danger

By Diane Jacobs

"There has been no demonstration of acute health effects linked to exposure to hazardous wastes at the Love Canal site."

This was the astounding conclusion of a five-member panel appointed by New York Gov. Hugh Carey last June to study the problem of toxic chemical waste dumps at Love Canal. Ironically, the head of the panel was Dr. Lewis Thomas, chancellor of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center.

The state's apparent intention in setting up the panel was to cast doubt on two previous further-reaching studies that resulted in orders to evacuate hundreds of families from the area. One study, conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency, found chromosome damage in 30 percent of a test group. The other, by Dr. Beverly Paigen, revealed "increased nervous disorders, birth defects, and reproductive abnormalities" in areas where chemical leakage was the worst.

Residents of Love Canal were bitter at the new "findings," which they rightly regarded as a further cover-up of the effects of criminal dumping by Hooker Chemical.

Since 1971, some eighty-two identified industrial chemicals, including dioxin and other toxic and radioactive materials, have bubbled and oozed to the surface. The response of the county and state health departments has ranged from temporary evacuation of homeowners, to installing fifteen-dollar window fans in basements to carry off toxic fumes, to offering to hire mentally retarded youths to dig drainage ditches in the canal area.

It was only the organized efforts of the homeowners and renters of Love Canal, with the aid of unions and church and campus groups, that forced the testing of residents, release of information, closing of two schools,

and the permanent evacuation of several hundred families nearest the canal.

The president of the Love Canal Homeowners Association, Lois Gibbs, said residents feared that, on the basis of the panel's report, the federal government might back out of its recent agreement to buy their homes. People "are so sick of this baloney they are going to riot in the streets and burn their homes down," she said.

IBEW on strike after GE firing

By Dave Ellis

BLOOMINGTON, Ind.—On Wednesday, September 24, approximately 850 electrical workers struck the General Electric plant here, which employs some 1,000 people.

At issue in the strike is not wages or

benefits, but the right of all union members to job security. The workers, members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 2249, were demanding the reinstatement of shop steward Tom Upton, fired in mid-June for an alleged "poor work-effort."

Unlike most union contracts, however, the GE contract in Bloomington does not include any binding arbitration as part of the grievance machinery. Instead, the procedure contains the option to arbitrate or to strike as the final step of the process. As a result, when GE broke off talks with the union on brother Upton's reinstatement, workers simply opted to walk off the job.

Vice-president of Local 2249, Wilburn Bryant told the *Militant*, "We called a meeting where we explained to the members that we were against any arbitration on this issue. GE always withholds vital information from arbitration hearings and usually wins about 95 percent of all cases. GE is big money, and these arbitrators don't want to cross them. The members understand that these arbitrators are not neutral or impartial. They're for the company."

Bryant explained that the strike was 90 percent effective, had 100 percent backing from the international union, and was receiving good support from the Bloomington labor movement, especially sister locals at Westinghouse, RCA, and Otis Elevator Company.

The picket lines have been large and spirited despite attempts of company supervisors and foremen to drive their cars through pickets. Bryant stated, "Our people have been just excellent. GE tried to run the plant the other day. They painted 400 refrigerator cases, but only 247 people showed up. They can't run a thing with 247 people. We're going to win this thing."

... Poland

Continued from page 10

The trade unions—which should have been instruments for helping the workers defend their interests, control production and help plan the economy—became instruments of the bureaucracy to keep the workers quiet. And the workers became convinced they needed new unions to assert their right to a voice in economic planning.

Despite the bureaucracy, the planned economy and the efforts of Poland's working people made possible big social and economic gains. Education, medical care, and other human needs began to be met for the first time. Food prices were heavily subsidized. And Poland became the ninth most industrialized country in the world.

This was not due to brilliant planning by the bureaucrats. Their role was parasitic. Their corruption and fear of giving the Polish workers any say in decision-making caused constant disruptions and imbalances—sometimes disastrous one.

But the social revolution and its aftermath instilled Polish workers with a deep self-confidence and a conviction that they were by right the masters of the factories and their country. They learned that only working people could solve the problems caused by bureaucratic mismanagement.

They decided that inequalities must be reduced, and the plan reoriented to take into account the desire of the masses for a better standard of living.

And all forms of bureaucratic tyranny, including censorship, must be abolished.

Their revolutionary, antibureaucratic drive to assert leadership of society was given voice on many occasions by strike leader Lech Walesa. Here is how *New York Times* correspondent John Darnton described Walesa's speech to a September 24 workers' rally in Warsaw:

"If there are difficult problems we can all strike together. If things get bad we stand together as a united Poland."

Darnton continued, "He added that his group's goal was not strikes but union organizing and, through hard work, to get the country [Poland] moving again."

The "free unions and a free economy" favored by Sam Church were the furthest things from the workers' minds. The changes they wanted could only be instituted in a nationalized, planned economy.

The union bureaucrats are afraid that American workers will be inspired by the real lessons of the Polish strikes. That's why they join the campaign of lies that pictures the workers as desiring nothing more than U.S.-style "free unions."

To defeat the employers' attacks on our living standards we need to transform our unions into a movement that can forge the kind of unity, solidarity, and militancy that the Polish workers achieved.

We need to get rid of the Kirklands, Gleasons, and the other high-paid bureaucrats who have dragged our "free unions" in the trail of the capitalist employers, the capitalist parties, and the capitalist government.

We need a labor party that can defend our interests in the political arena.

American labor needs its own foreign policy—free of control by the CIA and the Pentagon. We need a foreign policy that places American working people where we belong—on the side of the working people of Poland, El Salvador, Iran, and elsewhere who are fighting for a better life against our exploiters.

We need a policy that will allow the American unions to fulfill their role as the most powerful opponent of the drive toward militarism and war.

And we need socialism. We, too, must "have in our hands the land and the factories in which we work."

We need socialism so that the vast productive capacity of this country can be put to work for peaceful purposes instead of war, to meet the needs of all the world's people instead of to grind out profits for a few.

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In Review

'Playing for Time'

The CBS production of Arthur Miller's "Playing For Time" was shown on September 30. It was the target of a concerted campaign against it by pro-Zionist organizations protesting the presence in it of Vanessa Redgrave, who has expressed support for the Palestinian cause.

It is an extremely poignant and probing play of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Unlike the television play "Holocaust," which received the support of Zionist organizations, this play is not the product of a hack who trivialized the extermination of six million Jews by using the techniques of soap opera. It was written by the foremost living American dramatist.

"Playing for Time" is based on a memoir of Fania Fenelon, a survivor of Auschwitz. The story tells of

will be gassed after the performance. He wants to observe the effects of music on them. Mengele has no idea that he himself, a listener whom he does not think to study, is a case of abnormal psychology.

If Mengele and the other Nazis are complex portraits of abnormal psychology, the members of the orchestra are three-dimensional human beings, not cardboard cut-outs in postures of pathetic appeal or heroic resistance.

The Nazis have tried to dehumanize and isolate the Jewish women by shaving their heads but not those of the others. National prejudices among the prisoners remain, even in the concentration camp. The one Zionist prisoner, feels that every Gentile must be an anti-Semite. Although we can understand this response by one who has suffered such persecution, we must deplore it, for we perceive the deep sympathy for the Jews shown by one of the Polish women in speaking to Fania Fenelon.

Fania, played by Vanessa Redgrave, is the one whom all the women trust and come to for comfort. She is a strong, compassionate person who is appalled by the perception of what human beings can become.

She does not pretend to have all the answers to the ethical problems faced by the prisoners and does not judge harshly those weaker than she is. Above all, she perceives the need for comradeship and solidarity. She tells a young woman (who had attached herself adoringly to her at first but whose character deteriorates under the stress of hunger and concentration camp existence to the point of giving herself to Nazis for food) that she must think of others if she is to retain her humanity.

"Playing for Time" is not only true to the complexities of human nature; it is also more historically accurate than "Holocaust." We are shown that it was not only Jews who were gassed, although they constituted the majority of those who were, that Zionists were only a small minority among the Jews, and that communists played heroic roles in the resistance movement.

One historical allusion has an irony that is highly effective. Some of the Catholics exclaim, "If only the pope knew what is going on here." But historians have established that Pius XII knew of the concentration camps and kept silent, being primarily concerned that Europe would become communist.

It is this play, so superior to "Holocaust" in every respect, that the Zionists sought to keep from being shown by threatening to boycott its commercial sponsors. This opposition to a fine dramatization of the Nazi concentration camps made John V. O'Connor, the TV critic of the *New York Times*, say that "the ironies" surrounding the production are "little short of dizzying." But these ironies go much further than O'Connor himself realized.

O'Connor, after justly speaking of Vanessa Redgrave as "an astonishingly gifted actress," added that "her connection with a holocaust story was bound to prompt sincere and profound objections in circles that could hardly be accused of thoughtlessness." But these circles—the American Jewish Committee and the B'nai Brith—have whipped up unthinking passion around their charge that Redgrave is anti-semitic. They exploit Jews' justifiable fears of a recurrence of anti-semitism.

Anti-Zionism is not anti-semitism, although some anti-semites—like the Soviet bureaucracy—have sought to use anti-Zionism as a code word.

The recent outburst of the president of the Southern Baptist Association to the effect that God doesn't listen to the prayers of Jews is a reminder that the Zionist charges point the finger in exactly the wrong direction.

Such anti-semitism is to be found among some of the Evangelical church leaders whom these Jewish organizations have been cultivating because of their professed friendship for anticommunist Israel, not among those aligned with the disinherited of the earth.

—Paul Siegel


Television

a half-Jewish Parisian cabaret singer who is assigned by the Nazi concentration camp keepers to a women's orchestra that plays for their pleasure. Because of the favored position of these inmates, we are not saturated with the horrors of concentration camp life, of which we catch only glimpses. The play is the more effective for its artistic restraint.

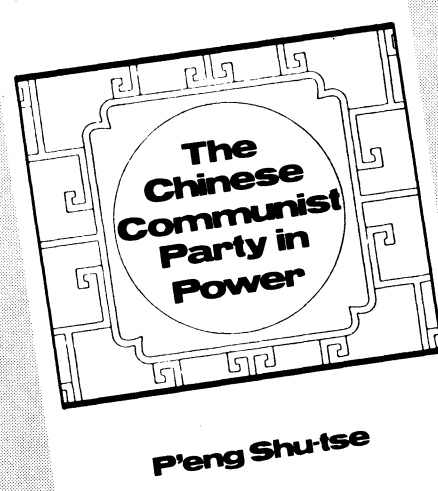
Always aware of the gas chambers in the background, we catch our breath when the members of the orchestra are ordered to form two lines, one Jewish and the other non-Jewish—only to share the relief of the prisoners when we learn that they are to be marched to a de-lousing station.

The notorious Dr. Mengele is shown, but we do not see him engaged in sadistic experimentation. Instead, he is listening to the sentimental arias of "Madame Butterfly." However, his grim rigidity is all the more menacing.

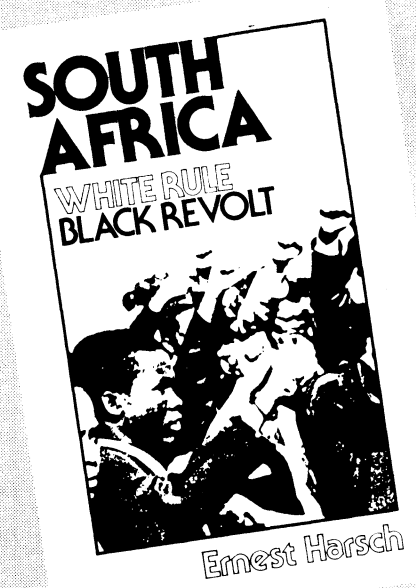
On one occasion the orchestra is told that Dr. Mengele wants it to play before hospitalized mental patients—who, the orchestra members learn later,




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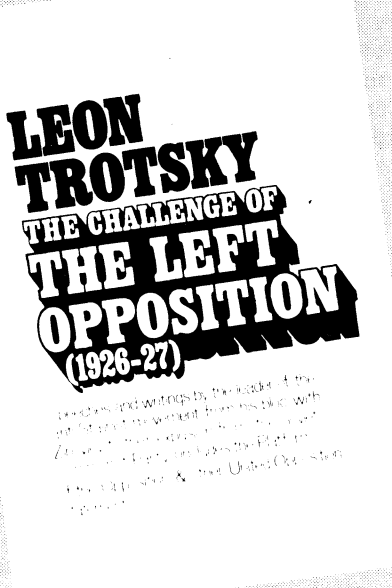
The Chinese Communist Party in Power
P'eng Shu-tse



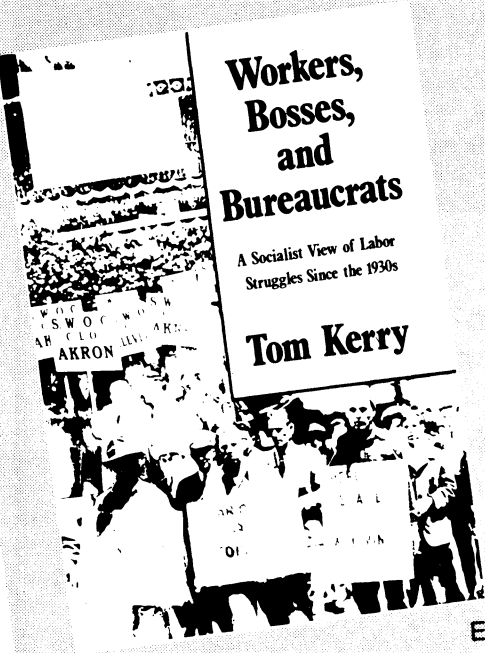
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... labor energy, jobs conf.—big step

Continued from back page

down, because it's probably too dangerous anyway. "We ought to have more conferences like this," Wynn said.

It was not just nuclear power on the minds of these unionists. They discussed other issues as well. Nationalization of energy. Public ownership of utilities. Whether or not Carter's multi-billion-dollar give-away to the oil companies to make liquid fuels from coal, the synfuels program, is worthwhile. They listened to different opinions, exchanged ideas and experiences.

The conference had an international character.

Arthur Scargill, president of the Yorkshire (Britain) National Union of Mineworkers sent solidarity greetings urging "no nukes."

Australian Railway Union executive board member James Fraser was at the conference. He roused the gathering with a report on union efforts to stop the mining of uranium. This is the unanimous position of the Australian labor organization equivalent to the AFL-CIO.

The labor party idea was raised a number of times in workshops and on the conference floor. It was popular, receiving loud cheers. On the other hand, buttons for Carter, Reagan, and Anderson were as scarce as pronuclear buttons. This is remarkable at a large labor gathering less than a month before the presidential election.

There was strong sentiment expressed against the threat of war. Spirited applause greeted UMWA President Sam Church's statement: "War is not a solution. It is just destruction. We wouldn't have gotten ourselves into the crisis in the Mideast if it wasn't for America's lust for their oil."

In addition to Church and Rosemary Trump of SEIU, the conference was also addressed by William Winpisinger, president of the one-million-member International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, and Martin Gerber, International Vice-president of the United Auto Workers.

Black political columnist William Worthy spoke on Saturday and broadened the scope of the issues considered. "If we oppose the murder of nuclear worker Karen Silkwood [who died mysteriously while trying to expose radiation hazards at the plant where she worked] we should also oppose the murders of workers in Guatemala, El Salvador, South Africa, South Korea. . . ."

The Coalition of Labor Union Women and the nine unions sponsoring the conference hammered out a resolution prior to the gathering ex-

pressing their views on nuclear power and some energy and employment questions.

That resolution, which was approved unanimously by the conference, represents an important advance in the official positions of most of the unions involved (see box).

The 828 union members who registered from fifty-seven unions returned home armed with that resolution and the intensive learning process from the two days of discussion. The experience will spur on a great deal of new discussion and action against nuclear power.



Militant/Jon Hillson

Members of IBEW Local 5 tried to break up conference, but failed. Other IBEW locals, however, participated in antinuclear meeting.

At the end of the conference on Sunday a number of resolutions were put on the floor. Most related directly to the purpose of the conference. They included condemning uranium mining on Indian land and support to the striking utility workers from the Steelworkers union in northern Indiana. These were unanimously approved.

But in addition, a proposal was made for the antinuclear conference to take a stand in opposition to U.S. intervention in the Iran-Iraq war or in Ethiopia. Another proposal was made to oppose Russian intervention also. These were overwhelmingly voted down.

The proposal to take a stand against U.S. policy was not voted down because of pro-war sentiment. In fact no one spoke in defense of U.S. policy. One unionist who spoke expressed what seemed to be a common reaction: "I am against a war. I want to go back to my local in Oklahoma and report on this conference and get them to take action against nuclear power. They didn't send me here because of the war."

The danger of the U.S. war drive is a vital one for the labor movement to discuss. In terms of their own opinions, it seemed that the majority at this conference shared an anti-war posi-

tion.

But a vote by this conference against U.S. intervention would not have represented winning over the leadership or membership of the unions who sponsored the conference. They had come together around opposition to nuclear power.

And that is what the brother from Oklahoma wanted to report back: the real achievement—advancing the fight against nuclear power.

This inspiring conference is the real beginning of the discussion in the labor movement on nuclear power. It represents an important example of how the labor movement can get together and discuss questions that affect workers.

It showed the social conscience of the labor movement. As important as the economic arguments are favoring the use of coal instead of nuclear power, the jobs and cost advantages are not the main factor. Every miner and other union member we interviewed and who spoke on the floor emphasized the unacceptable danger of nuclear power. "It's a life or death question for humanity."

The tremendous power and authority of the UMWA miners made its impression on everyone. As conference leader Jerry Gordon put it, "When that disruption happened, it sure felt good to be on the side of the miners."

This conference was a big step forward in fighting nuclear power. Such a gathering of union members forges labor solidarity.

The UMWA contract with the coal industry expires March 27. Veterans of the 110-day strike of the winter of 1977-78 pointed to this conference as a beginning for building an even more massive labor solidarity movement than was done for the last strike.

The experience of the conference educated and inspired everyone who was there.

A UMWA local president from Charleston, West Virginia, a working miner, summed up the conference this way. He told the *Militant*, "I'm damn proud to be here. I didn't know much about what it would be like, but it's been something else. Working people need to get together more like this and stick together."

Can the labor movement stop nuclear power?

"No question about it!"

Subsequent issues of the *Militant* will carry more reports from the conference. Of special interest are reports on the continuing accident at Three Mile Island and the facts about rail transportation of nuclear materials.

Sponsors' resolution

The nine sponsoring unions and the Coalition of Labor Union Women agreed before the conference on a resolution on safe energy and full employment. It was approved unanimously by the conference.

The resolution said in part:

"Sentiment in the labor movement in support of safe energy and against nuclear power is rapidly growing. This is reflected by the large number of anti-nuclear resolutions adopted by international unions as well as by regions, districts and local unions, and by the broad sponsorship of this [conference]."

"The extremely serious problems associated with the use of nuclear power are increasingly recognized. These include: the potential catastrophic effects of nuclear accidents; the harm caused by even 'low' levels of radiation; the inability of the nuclear industry or the federal government to dispose safely of radioactive wastes; the virtual impossibility of mass evacuations from areas around nuclear facilities; skyrocketing costs of nuclear construction; and the uncertainties and high costs involved in 'decommissioning' retired reactors. It is also clear that safe alternatives to nuclear-generated electricity exist: coal—mined safely and burned cleanly; . . ."

"Employers engage in job blackmail, and harass workers who voice skepticism about nuclear power or organize on behalf of alternatives. . . ."

In the Program of Action, trade unionists were urged to:

Conduct educational activities; organize regional safe energy/full employment conferences; build united actions in coalition with the rest of the antinuclear movement during the period of November 8-16, 1980, observing the death of Karen Silkwood.

The Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment has already produced some useful fact sheets about nuclear power dangers and plans to publish more literature based on reports to the conference. The committee can be reached at 1536 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Telephone (202) 265-7190.

Louisville labor, civil rights rally against Klan

By Chris Rayson

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—About 400 people crammed into a downtown Louisville union headquarters September 28 for a thunderous rally aimed at uniting people against the Ku Klux Klan and racism.

The auditorium of the Labor Temple, home of the Laborers International Union Local 576, rang with applause and shouts of "right on" from the white and Black audience.

The rally was sponsored by the Louisville Anti-Klan Coalition, made up of more than 100 organizations. Among the sponsors were the Jefferson County Teachers Association; Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; NAACP Kentucky State Conference of Branches; National Organization for Women, Louisville chapter; Paddlewheel Alliance; Socialist Workers Party; U.B. Thomas, president of United Auto Workers Local 817; and the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council.

Anne Braden, the well-known civil rights activist from Louisville, said: "The racists in this society are the minority. We are in the process of

building a majority movement in this country against racism, and we can do it."

Anne Schmitt, executive board member of the Communications Workers of America Local 10310 and a leader of the Derby City Coalition of Labor Union Women, noted that "the Klan threatens the rights and gains of all women, Black and white alike. This is why the women's movement in this city must take a solid stand against the Klan."

Shirley Smith, a member of the Louisville chapter of the National Organization for Women, attacked police inaction against Klan terrorists around the country. "In April four Black women in Chattanooga were shot by three members of the Ku Klux Klan. Two of the gunmen were acquitted and one was convicted of simple assault. No one can argue that a handful like the Klan can operate all these years if the government of the United States was concerned with stopping it."

The keynote speech, punctuated by shouts of "right on," laughter, and constant applause, was by Dr. Joseph

Lowery, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

He recounted the Klan attack on an SCLC march in Decatur, Alabama, on May 26, 1979. The Klan attempted to assassinate Dr. Lowery and his wife in that march, but the only arrest that day was of a Black man attempting to defend the demonstration from armed racists. (Curtis Lee Robinson was convicted in Decatur October 2 of attempting to murder a Klansman. He was released from jail on two years' probation. See article in the October 17 *Militant*.)

Lowery called on Carter and the Justice Department to vigorously prosecute Klan murderers. But he pointed out that "in San Diego, California, the Democratic nominee for Congress is the local head of the Ku Klux Klan."

Lowery said the Klan "must be met with strong, positive resistance from the White House to the out house."

To approving shouts, Lowery stated he was "unalterably opposed" to the draft. "I want them to draft those rich, white men who are always making decisions to draft young, poor

Black and white men to go fight and die while they watch television, sip champagne, get richer, and get older."

Outside, another kind of anti-Klan rally was taking place. Scores of young Blacks from the nearby Sheppard Square housing project gathered around a handful of racist protesters. The police decided it was time the right-wingers, for their own safety, ended their activities and escorted them away.

Five years ago, the Klan organized violent demonstrations in Louisville against school desegregation. They participated in United Labor Against Busing, an anti-busing group that had the support of key local union officials.

But school desegregation in Jefferson County has been largely implemented.

The right wing, especially the Klan, is demoralized and divided because of its defeat on school desegregation.

The Black community, labor, and others in Louisville are increasingly determined to counter the Klan. Reflecting this sentiment, the Louisville Board of Aldermen recently passed a resolution against the Klan.



Makes your grass glow—Albuquerque will have a facility for sterilizing raw sewage sludge with radioactive waste. The end product will be used as animal feed and fertilizer for city parks and school grounds. The radioactivity is strong enough to destroy disease-breeding bacteria, but not enough to make the sludge radioactive, officials assure.

Economics made simple—"Most economists put the blame for rising food prices squarely on inflation, contending that the two are inseparable."—The *New York Times*.

Plain talk—Some Zionists argue that Israel is practically a socialist state. Example? An Israeli government ad in a U.S. research and development magazine boasts that they have lots of

skilled labor, "at wages that are significantly low." They advise that English is widely spoken, but "The language we share most of all is that of business profitability. . . ."

The golden years—If you die on Social Security, you do not collect for that month, even if you check out the last day of the month.

The march of civilization—Seventy-two governments have agreed not to use firebombs on civilian populations. If approved, a further proviso would bar using toys and religious objects as booby traps and prohibiting planting booby traps on the wounded or dead. It has not been decided if these rules will apply in civil conflicts or only in wars between nations.

Chew on this one—"We all eat better than we need to. People could cut out some of the luxuries in their food budget and at the same time improve their diet."—Kim Kleinschmidt, an Illinois banker

High cost of prying—Court-ordered police phone taps and other electronic surveillance has decreased 36 percent in the past six years, officials assert. The reason, they say, is inflation. The average estimated cost of each surveillance in 1969 was \$2,634. Last year it was up to \$16,437.

Cultural note—Muzak, America's elevator music, is now being broadcast live by satellite. This reportedly enhances the fidelity of the sound.



Union Talk

Mondale visits Brooklyn Navy Yard

The following column is by Robert Dees, a member of the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of America Local 12.

BROOKLYN, N.Y.—Vice-president Walter Mondale visited the Brooklyn Navy Yard October 10. The company built a reviewing stand, arranged for a high school marching band, invited all the local Democratic politicians, and had all the yard workers attend the ceremonies, with pay. In the words of one rigger, "I'm not going to listen to that idiot unless they pay me."

When we arrived at the site, men in business suits passed out campaign placards. While waiting forty minutes for Mondale to show up, I asked several co-workers if they thought these politicians would do anything for working people. The majority of the responses are unprintable. One sixty-year-old burner said: "It's ridiculous. It's like a circus. Mondale comes here and promises, promises, promises, all for votes, and they never do anything anyway. Who do they think they're kidding?"

The Democratic politician who introduced Mondale stated that the company "is to be commended for the great job it's doing in our defense mobilization. The Brooklyn Navy Yard was once the number one shipyard in the country. With the help of Carter

and Mondale, it will be again." A pipefitter commented bitterly, "Yeah, just like in World War II."

A sailor said, "I'll tell you this, if there's a war with Iran, or anybody else, I'm heading for Canada." But what if you're at sea? "I'd jump overboard and swim to Canada. If this ship ever gets hit, we'll all be blown to Canada."

One man held a sign "SIU [Seafarer's International Union] Supports Carter/Mondale." I expressed surprise that the union would support Carter since his policies hurt working people. He said, "Yes, but Reagan will invoke antilabor legislation."

I reminded him that Carter invoked the Taft-Hartley Act against the miners in 1978. He looked shocked and said he didn't know that. He didn't hold up his sign anymore.

When I got back to the locker room for lunch, I found that many had not attended. "Why should I waste my time?" one said.

Another worker said, "What's the point in voting? It won't do any good anyway."

In fact, there is a real alternative for working people in the coming election: Andrew Pulley the Socialist Workers candidate for president. However, the bosses and their government are trying to

prevent working people from finding out about this. The week before Mondale's visit, for example, Pulley was denied entry into the yard when he came to talk to workers.

Now the government has gone a step further. On October 14, two officers on the *USS Aylwin* approached two yard workers and falsely accused them of "distributing political brochures." The officers said that any yard worker caught discussing "partisan politics" would be escorted off the ship and not allowed to return. This would result in the worker losing his or her job.

Neither worker was distributing any literature at that time.

The navy refused to allow the workers in question to confront their accuser or otherwise refute the false charges against them. Thus, anytime officers want to get rid of any worker, they can simply again make a false accusation, and that's it.

So in an election year, in a week in which the vice-president of the United States campaigns in the shipyard, the yard workers are muzzled and forbidden to discuss politics on the job, on penalty of losing their livelihood. This action was taken by the U.S. Navy, which claims to "defend democracy."

What's Going On

ARIZONA PHOENIX

SOCIALIST CAMPAIGN RALLY. Speaker: Matilde Zimmermann, Socialist Workers Party candidate for vice-president. Sat., Oct. 18, 6:30 p.m. dinner; 8 p.m. rally. 1243 E. McDowell. Dinner \$3. Aup: Arizona SWP Campaign Committee. For more information call (602) 255-0450.

COLORADO DENVER

LABOR AND SAFE ENERGY. Speakers to be announced. Fri., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 126 W. 12th Ave. Donation: \$1. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (303) 534-8954.

REVOLUTION IN THE AMERICAS: THE THREAT OF U.S. INTERVENTION. Speakers to be announced. Fri., Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m. 126 W. 12th Ave. Donation: \$1. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (303) 534-8954.

GEORGIA ATLANTA

WHY WORKING PEOPLE NEED A LABOR PARTY. Speaker: Jean Savage, member International Association of Machinists Lodge 709 and of Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m. 509 Peachtree St. NE. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (404) 872-7229.

INDIANA GARY

IRAQ-IRAN WAR. Speaker: David Turpin, Social-

ist Workers Party. Fri., Oct. 24, 7:30 p.m. 3883 Broadway, Pathfinder Bookstore. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (219) 884-9509.

KENTUCKY LOUISVILLE

FREE EL SALVADOR. A FILM AND TALK ON THE REVOLUTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA. Speakers: representative, El Salvador Solidarity Committee; Nelson Pérez, eyewitness to Bolivian military coup. Sat., Oct. 25, 8 p.m. 131 W. Main. Donation: \$3. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (502) 587-8418.

MICHIGAN DETROIT

NUCLEAR POWER: A DANGER TO HUMANITY. Speakers: Connie Harkness, Detroit Safe Energy Coalition; John Keillor, member, United Steelworkers Local 7720. Sun., Oct. 26, 7 p.m. 6404 Woodward. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (313) 875-5322.

MINNESOTA TWIN CITIES

DANGER ON THE RAILS. Speakers: Jim Carson, United Transportation Union, Chicago Northwestern railroad; Jim Bialke, UTU, Soo Line; Bill Peterson, UTU, Milwaukee Road and Socialist Workers Party. Sun., Oct. 26, 4 p.m. 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Twin Cities Militant Forum. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY

IRAQ INVADES IRAN: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE WAR. Speakers: Martha Pettit, Socialist Workers candidate for U.S. Senate; Iranian student. Sun., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. 4715-A Troost. Donation: \$1.75. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

KANSAS CITY SOCIALIST WORKERS RALLY. Speakers: Andrew Pulley, SWP candidate for president; Martha Pettit, SWP candidate for Senate; Martin Anderson, SWP candidate for governor. Sun., Oct. 26, buffet 6:30 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m. Unitarian Church, 4500 Warwick. Donation: \$6.50; advance sale \$5.50; rally only \$2. Aup: SWP Campaign. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

OHIO

CINCINNATI

REVOLUTION IN GRENADA: FIRST FREE BLACK COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. Speaker: Scott Breen, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Congress, First C.D.; recently taped speech of Maurice Bishop, prime minister of Grenada. Sun., Oct. 19, 7 p.m. 2531 Gilbert Ave., 2nd Floor. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (513) 751-2636.

RHODE ISLAND PROVIDENCE

UPSURGE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. Speaker: Nelson González, Socialist Workers Party candidate

for Congress, Sixth District, Massachusetts. Sat., Oct. 18, 2 p.m. Knight Memorial Library Auditorium, 275 Elmwood Ave. Donation: \$1. Aup: Young Socialist Alliance. For more information call (401) 726-3657.

TEXAS DALLAS

IRAN-IRAQ: STOP U.S. INTERVENTION IN PERSIAN GULF. Speakers: Kathy Rettig, Young Socialist Alliance; others. Sat., Oct. 25, 7 p.m. 5442 E. Grand. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (214) 826-4711.

SAN ANTONIO

IRAN-IRAQ WAR: WHAT'S BEHIND IRAQ'S ATTACKS? A panel discussion. Speakers: Tom Smith, Young Socialist Alliance; Palestinian student; others. Fri., Oct. 24, 8 p.m. 1406 N. Flores. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (512) 222-8398.

BENEFIT FOR A FAIR BALLOT. Entertainment with Rudy Harst and other musicians, rock, reggae, refreshments. Sun., Oct. 26, 2 p.m. Brachenridge Park, Sunken Gardens Amphitheatre. Donation: \$2. Aup: Texas Fair Ballot Committee. For more information call (512) 271-7214.

WISCONSIN MILWAUKEE

WOMEN AND THE 1980 ELECTIONS. Speaker: Andrea Morrell, Socialist Workers Party National Committee. Sun., Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m. Militant Bookstore, 3091 N. 27th. Donation: \$1.50. Aup: Militant Forum. For more information call (414) 445-2076.

Letters

Change in attitude

Just in the past few months I've seen a change in the political attitudes of people I grew up with or work with. It seems like they are thinking like the *Militant*, even before I say anything.

Two railroad clerks I work with are in the National Guard. One has already been told to report and the other expects to be called soon.

The brother-in-law of a track foreman is in the Reserves. He was told he'd be going overseas in a month or so.

The track worker says, "It's got something to do with this 'show of force' of Carter's in Iran. It's bullshit. They got themselves over there, now they want us to go bail them out." P.S.

Denver, Colorado

Women's building bombed

A pipe bomb exploded early October 8 at the entrance of the Women's Building, a center in the San Francisco Mission District for many women's rights groups. There were no injuries. Tiles were blown out of the entryway and the front doors shattered.

The Women's Building is a multi-purpose community center that houses such organizations as the National Women's Political Caucus, San Francisco Women's Center, and Women Against Pornography and Violence. The San Francisco chapter of the National Organization for Women holds its meetings there. The facility is also used by community groups for forums and other public events.

Carmen Vasquez of the center told me that this was the third attack in a year. Last Valentine's Day, an arsonist did \$60,000 worth of damage to interior offices.

"Activities organized out of the Women's Building will not be stopped by these acts," said Vasquez.

Louise Goodman, Socialist Workers Party candidate for San Francisco supervisor, responded quickly to the attack. In a letter to Mayor Dianne Feinstein, she demanded immediate apprehension and prosecution of those responsible for the bombing and an investigation into the information held by San Francisco police on the other organizations singled out for future

assaults. "This is an attack on all working people," she wrote. "The democratic right to organize for women's equality must be defended from acts of violence and intimidation."

Louise Armstrong
San Francisco, California

Pentagon's guinea pigs

Two recent polls conducted in Utah and the Rocky Mountain states show the increasing sentiment against both the MX missile program and the construction of any new nuclear power plants.

In Southern Utah, where residents were used as guinea pigs for the Pentagon's atomic testing in the '50s and '60s, one poll showed that 47 percent were opposed to the basing of the MX in Utah and Nevada. Another 24 percent were undecided.

With more information about the recent Titan explosion in Arkansas, which was followed closely here, Utahns are reluctant to become guinea pigs again for the Pentagon.

The second poll, taken in eight western states, showed an overall decline in support for nuclear power plants.

One year ago 57 percent favored nuclear energy development in their states and only 29 percent opposed nuclear power.

In this survey, only 48 percent favored nuclear installations while the figure opposed jumped from 29 percent to 40 percent.

Such a shift in attitude towards nuclear energy development shows that there exists a base for building a strong antinuke and anti-MX movement in the Rocky Mountain area.

Ed Berger
Salt Lake City, Utah

Principled campaign

Enclosed is a small contribution for your election expenses. I support you because yours is a principled campaign. Much like the Debs campaigns of the first part of this century, you patiently explain how and why people are getting 'ripped off' by



'Are they still there?'

corporate power and what we can do about it.

Keep it up, don't weaken or waver. History has shown that Debs was right. You can't reform capitalism, it must be abolished!

S.P.
New York City

Common goals

I recently requested literature concerning your movement and have decided it says most of what I have felt and preached in my own circles.

I grew up through the '60s but was a little too young to realize and get involved. I wish I could have been older at that time so I could have played an active role in the events of the decade.

I was aware of a movement such as yours, but was not really knowledgeable to the extent of your activities.

I have throughout my life tried to unite people "in my own way" but realize the forces to overcome are great and powerful and ruthless. I have often felt the situation to be futile, especially for someone like me—a female with a few years college, one who is not very knowledgeable about the workings of the bureaucracy. But I

do know the basics, what's right, what's wrong.

I would like to help out and lend my support to the "cause."

M.L.
Flushing, New York

Material appreciated

Thank you very much for recently sending our African Culture Society and Chicano/Latino Culture Group your material outlining your socialist program for the rights of working people and all the oppressed. Many of the brothers attending our weekly group meetings have already borrowed the material we received from you.

I'm hoping for and encouraging study, dialogue, and debate around SWP campaign literature. To further promote ideological struggle, I would greatly appreciate it if you could send us twenty packets of SWP material. (Our two prisoner-run groups average a combined attendance of over 100 members.) This literature would be circulated at our weekly meetings.

Again, thank you for your support and solidarity.

A prisoner
Leavenworth, Kansas

If You Like This Paper, Look Us Up

Where to find the Socialist Workers Party, Young Socialist Alliance, and socialist books and pamphlets

ALABAMA: Birmingham: SWP, YSA, 205 18th St. S. Tel: (205) 323-3079. Send mail to P.O. Box 3382-A. Zip: 35255.

ARIZONA: Phoenix: SWP, YSA, 1243 E. McDowell. Zip: 85006. Tel: (602) 255-0450.

CALIFORNIA: Oakland: SWP, YSA, 2864 Telegraph Ave. Zip: 94609. Tel: (415) 763-3792. Los Angeles: SWP, YSA, 2211 N. Broadway. Zip: 90031. Tel: (213) 225-3126. San Diego: SWP, YSA, 1053 15th St. Zip: 92101. Tel: (714) 234-4630. San Francisco: SWP, YSA, 3284 23rd St. Zip: 94110. Tel: (415) 824-1992. San Jose: SWP, YSA, 201 N. 9th St. Zip: 95112. Tel: (408) 998-4007.

COLORADO: Denver: SWP, YSA, 126 W. 12th Ave. Zip: 80204. Tel: (303) 534-8954.

FLORIDA: Gainesville: YSA, c/o Mary Randazzo, 1223 Northwest 18th Ave. Zip: 32601. Tel: (904) 372-1973. Miami: SWP, YSA, 8171 NE 2nd Ave. Zip: 33138. Tel: (305) 756-8358.

GEORGIA: Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 509 Peachtree St. NE. Zip: 30308. Tel: (404) 872-7229.

ILLINOIS: Champaign-Urbana: YSA, 284 Illini Union, Urbana. Zip: 61801. Chicago: SWP, YSA, 434 S. Wabash, Room 700. Zip: 60605. Tel: (312) 939-0737.

INDIANA: Gary: SWP, YSA, 3883 Broadway. Zip: 46409. Tel: (219) 884-9509. Indianapolis: SWP, YSA, 4850 N. College. Zip: 46205. Tel: (317) 283-6149.

IOWA: Cedar Falls: YSA, Box 352. Zip: 50613.

KENTUCKY: Louisville: SWP, YSA, 131 W. Main #102. Zip: 40202. Tel: (502) 587-8418.

LOUISIANA: New Orleans: SWP, YSA, 3207 Dublin St. Zip: 70118. Tel: (504) 486-8048.

MARYLAND: Baltimore: SWP, YSA, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Zip: 21218. Tel: (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS: Amherst: YSA, P.O. Box 837. Zip: 01002. Tel: (413) 546-5942. Boston: SWP, YSA, 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th Floor. Zip: 02215. Tel: (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN: Ann Arbor: YSA, 4120 Michigan Union, U. of M. Zip: 48109. Detroit: SWP, YSA, 6404 Woodward Ave. Zip: 48202. Tel: (313) 875-5322.

MINNESOTA: Mesabi Iron Range: SWP, YSA, 1012 2nd Ave. South, Virginia, Minn. Zip: 55792. Tel: (218) 749-6327. Twin Cities: SWP, YSA, 508 N. Snelling Ave., St. Paul. Zip: 55104. Tel: (612) 644-6325.

MISSOURI: Kansas City: SWP, YSA, 4715A Troost. Zip: 64110. Tel: (816) 753-0404. St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 6223 Delmar Blvd. Zip: 63130. Tel: (314) 725-1570.

NEW JERSEY: Newark: SWP, YSA, 11-A Central Ave. Zip: 07102. Tel: (201) 643-3341.

NEW MEXICO: Albuquerque: SWP, YSA, 1417 Central Ave. NE. Zip: 87106. Tel: (505) 842-0954.

NEW YORK: Capital District (Schenectady): SWP, YSA, 323 State St. Zip: 12305. Tel: (518) 374-1494. New York, Brooklyn: SWP, YSA, 335 Atlantic Ave. Zip: 11201. Tel: (212) 852-7922. New York, Manhattan: SWP, YSA, 108 E. 16th St. 2nd Floor. Zip: 10003. Tel: (212) 260-6400. New York: City-wide SWP, YSA, 108 E. 16th St. 2nd Floor. Zip: 10003. Tel: (212) 533-2902.

NORTH CAROLINA: Piedmont: SWP, YSA, 216 E. 6th St., Winston-Salem. Zip: 27101. Tel: (919) 723-3419.

OHIO: Cincinnati: SWP, YSA, 2531 Gilbert Ave. Zip: 45206. Tel: (513) 751-2636. Cleveland: SWP, YSA, 2230 Superior. Zip: 44114. Tel: (216) 579-9369. Toledo: SWP, YSA, 2120 Dorr St. Zip: 43607. Tel: (419) 536-0383.

OREGON: Portland: SWP, YSA, 711 NW Everett. Zip: 97209. Tel: (503) 222-7225.

PENNSYLVANIA: Edinboro: YSA, Edinboro State College. Zip: 16444. Tel: (215) 734-4415. Philadelphia: SWP, YSA, 5811 N. Broad St. Zip: 19141. Tel: (215) 927-4747 or 927-4748. Pittsburgh: SWP, YSA, 1210 E. Carson St. Zip: 15203. Tel: (412) 488-7000. State College: YSA, c/o Bill Donovan, 1240 E. Branch Rd. Zip: 16801. Tel: (814) 234-6655.

TEXAS: Austin: YSA, c/o Mike Rose, 7409 Berkman Dr. Zip: 78752. Dallas: SWP, YSA, 5442 E. Grand. Zip: 75223. Tel: (214) 826-4711. Houston: SWP, YSA, 806 Elgin St. #1. Zip: 77006. Tel: (713) 524-8761. San Antonio: SWP, YSA, 1406 N. Flores Rd. Zip: 78212. Tel: (512) 222-8398.

UTAH: Salt Lake City: SWP, YSA, 677 S. 7th East, 2nd Floor. Zip: 84102. Tel: (801) 355-1124.

VIRGINIA: Tidewater Area (Newport News): SWP, YSA, 111 28th St. Zip: 23607. Tel: (804) 380-0133.

WASHINGTON, D.C.: SWP, YSA, 3106 Mt. Pleasant St. NW. Zip: 20010. Tel: (202) 797-7699.

WASHINGTON: Olympia: YSA, Room 3208, The Evergreen State College. Zip: 98501. Tel: (206) 866-7332. Seattle: SWP, YSA, 4868 Rainier Ave. South. Zip: 98118. Tel: (206) 723-5330.

WEST VIRGINIA: Morgantown: SWP, YSA, 957 S. University Ave. Zip: 26505. Tel: (304) 296-0055.

WISCONSIN: Milwaukee: SWP, YSA, 3901 N. 27th St. Zip: 53216. Tel: (414) 445-2076.

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The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

THE MILITANT

Large labor conference denounces nuclear danger

This article was prepared by 'Militant' reporters Jon Hillson and Stu Singer, and Aníbal Yáñez, managing editor of 'Perspectiva Mundial.'

PITTSBURGH—It was standing room only for the nearly 1,000 people who filled the ballroom at the Pittsburgh Hilton Hotel October 10-12 for the first National Labor Conference for Safe Energy and Full Employment.

This large gathering, overwhelmingly union members, served notice on the energy barons that opposition to nuclear power is a labor issue.

The conference was initiated by nine international unions and the Coalition of Labor Union Women (see box).

The most powerful group there was the coal miners.

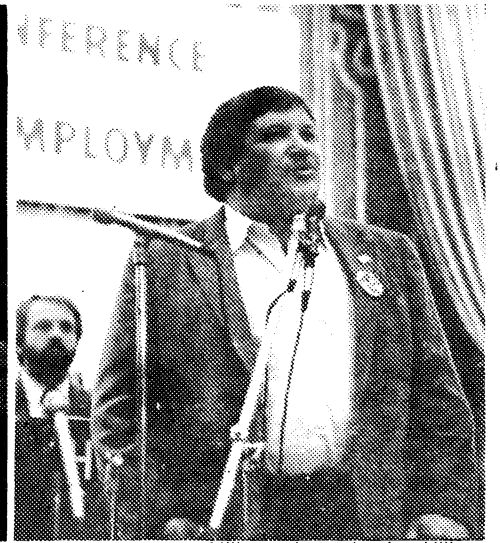
More than 100 working miners and union officials, including United Mine Workers International President Sam Church, put their stamp on the conference in numerous ways. Many people remarked on the continuity of the role of the UMWA in this gathering and its historic contributions to the labor movement.

In his keynote speech Sam Church said: "For too long [energy] decisions were made by the 'energy elite.' Their concerns were not in providing jobs and efficient energy, but in providing continued and soaring profits."

The nuclear industry, Church said, promised energy so cheap, "we wouldn't need electric meters. . . . But they gave us the meters. They gave us Three Mile Island. They gave us countless tons of nuclear waste. They even gave us the bill for the cost of their own mistakes. They gave us lies."

Citing the major problems connected with nuclear power, "from the mining of uranium to the disposal of the radioactive waste," the UMWA president told the crowd that "America's immediate energy problems can only be solved by safely mining and cleanly using coal."

Charles Komanoff, a leading environmental researcher, participated in



Left, almost 1,000 union members met in two-day conference on energy and jobs. Sentiment was that nuclear power is a threat to humanity, and must be stopped. Right, UMWA Pres. Church: 'Energy elite concerned with profits, not safe energy.'

the conference. He stated that the gathering marked the end of opposition by some environmentalists in the antinuclear movement to coal as the main energy alternative. New evidence was presented by Komanoff and others about progress in clean burning of coal to produce electricity and large cost advantages of coal versus other methods of generating electricity.

Disruption

The threat to nuclear power represented by the conference was recognized by the nuclear industry. Supporters of nuclear power tried to disrupt the meeting, but failed.

A group of almost 100 from Local 5 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) broke into the meeting hall through a back door during the early moments of the Friday evening kickoff rally. Carrying picket signs with pronuclear industry slogans on them, the electricians surrounded the stage and occupied the center aisle of the meeting room.

IBEW Local 5 represents electricians in the construction industry.

The original conference marshaling

force was badly outnumbered. UMWA President Sam Church and Service Employees International Union Vice-president Rosemary Trump were among those on the stage when the disruption occurred. Quickly, one of the miners who was part of the defense team grabbed the microphone and shouted, "UMWA members front and center."

The crowd burst into cheers as fifty miners trooped to the stage, protecting it against a takeover by the disrupters. They were disciplined in the face of physical provocations by the IBEW officials who led the attack. The miners opened discussions with the IBEW members who were involved. Unlike the pickets at their helm, they were willing to talk and evidently had not been informed about the nature of the gathering they were supposed to break up. Some said they thought it was an antilabor meeting and that participants were against technology in general.

Clusters of union members from the conference debated the outnumbered electricians throughout the hall.

"Nuclear power is just too dangerous." "Electricians jobs aren't threatened. You need electricians whether the electricity is generated by coal or nuclear." The debates raged on.

The IBEW industry supporters were not only failing to break up the conference, but their own members were shaken by the discussions.

With the conference members singing "Solidarity Forever," the IBEW group left. The packed ballroom broke into a roar.

While thirty to forty Local 5 members, undoubtedly paid for their time, picketed the front of the hotel each of the next two mornings, no further disruption was attempted.

An October 13 article in the Pittsburgh *Post-Gazette* reported, "The gathering was closely observed by pronuclear forces, including large segments of the electrical utility industry and corporations that build and supply nuclear plants."

The disruption attempt symbolized the real debate in the labor movement over energy policy and many other issues.

Eyes opened

John Finnerty, the official observer for the United Transportation Union (UTU), in reporting the proceedings of a workshop on nuclear waste transport-

tation, seemed to speak for many in attendance.

"I really didn't have a position on nuclear power pro or con when I came here," the white-haired, working railroad engineer told the crowd.

"But I thank God I had the privilege to come here. I've had my eyes opened."

That was the comment over and over. "It was a real eye-opener."

A welcome addition to the workshop discussions was the participation of members and officers of a Pittsburgh-area IBEW local, which represents utility plant workers. This local had originally threatened to picket the conference as Local 5 was doing, but instead accepted an invitation to participate.

Some of these electricians changed their views as a result of the conference.

Trade unionists bought antinuclear books, talked with environmentalists, watched slide shows, and met with each other outside the conference hall. Workshops covering coal, nuclear accidents, jobs and energy, democratic control of energy, radiation in the workplace, and other topics attracted almost all the conference participants.

At the general session Saturday morning, nuclear physicist Michio Kaku showed a chilling slide show on nuclear accidents. He refuted the myth incessantly peddled by the nuclear industry that no one has ever been killed in a nuclear plant accident. He documented at least seven people killed in the United States alone.

Jane Lee, who works a farm right across the river from the Three Mile Island nuclear plant, went from one workshop to another. Her powerful presentation described the nightmare of birth defects and health problems already affecting livestock and starting to affect humans in the contaminated area. Many people were convinced about the nuclear danger by her talk.

Like Tony Wynn, a young union president who works in a uranium recovery plant in Florida. His union, the International Chemical Workers, was a conference sponsor. But, "I came here pronuclear," Wynn told the *Militant*. The conference made him rethink everything. Wynn plans to report back to his local and fight for job safety in a new way. He says he doesn't care if the company threatens to close the plant

Continued on page 21

Meeting sponsored by 9 unions

PITTSBURGH—The sign at the front of the hall read: "First National Labor Conference for Safe Energy and Full Employment." The conference was initiated by a committee of unionists, led by Jerry Gordon, who are active in the antinuclear movement.

Gordon was an important leader in the fight against the Vietnam War and helped organize the Labor for the Equal Rights Amendment activities in Virginia early this year.

The nine international unions that sponsored the Pittsburgh conference were the United Mine Workers, United Auto Workers, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Service Employees International Union, Graphic Arts International Union, International Chemical Workers Union, United Furniture Workers of America, International Woodworkers of America, and the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union.

These unions have a combined membership in the United States and Canada of 3.5 million.

The Coalition of Labor Union Women, whose head, Joyce Miller, was recently put on the executive board of the AFL-CIO, also sponsored the conference.

Workers attended the conference from many unions in addition to the sponsors. A large contingent of steelworkers was there, including a delegation from the two steelworkers locals striking the Northern Indiana Public Service Company.

During the disruption by International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 5, the NIPSCO strikers wrote in big letters on signs they carried that IBEW members in Indiana are crossing the steelworker picket lines during the strike.

The IBEW itself was one of the unions that was represented by a number of individual members at the conference.